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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Suspends Talks To Protest Kidnapping

Delegation Leaves Cairo

NC1210064394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on a Palestinian legislative council left Cairo at dawn today pursuant to Israel's decision to break off the talks following the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Palestinian on Suspension

NC1210082694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Hasan 'Usfur, member of the Palestinian delegation to the talks with Israel on legislative elections, has denounced the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier in Gaza by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

He said the act is a provocation of the Palestinian National Authority and an attempt to embarrass it and portray it as unable to maintain peace and security.

'Usfur told MENA that the authority will not remain silent on this act and will exercise its responsibility to preserve security and stability and deprive those who want to confuse the negotiations and sabotage the peace process of the chance to do so, in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

He urged that the parties that oppose the peace process and try to sabotage it not be responded to.

The Palestinian official said Israel's decision to break off the negotiations is a submission to the pressure exerted by the groups that wish the peace process to stop. He hoped the Israelis will return to the negotiating table as soon as possible so that an agreement on the legislative council can be reached and the attempts by the enemies of the peace process can be blocked.

'Usfur hoped the negotiations would not be suspended indefinitely because this will not serve peace and stability.

He said the Palestinian delegation will leave Cairo for the West Bank and Gaza later today.

Palestinians Hope for Resumption

NC1210111194 Paris AFP in English 1042 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 12 (AFP)—Palestinians want a speedy resumption of autonomy talks with Israel which were suspended Tuesday following the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier, PLO negotiators said here.

They condemned the kidnapping of Corporal Nahshon Wachsman by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) on Sunday, and said their leaders would not allow "any element to disrupt the negotiation process."

"We are hoping to resume (the talks with Israel) as soon as possible," Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who headed the Palestinian team in the current round of talks, told AFP.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin suspended talks and sealed off the Gaza Strip indefinitely after a Hamas militant appeared on state television to claim the kidnapping of the 19-year old soldier.

Rabin ordered the Israeli team back from Cairo where negotiations were taking place so General Danny Rothschild, head of the Israeli delegation, could attend an emergency cabinet meeting Wednesday.

And he warned PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat: "Any delay in releasing him (Wachsman) will have serious repercussions for the future of the peace process between Israel and the PLO. the implementation of accords signed by us and our relations," according to his spokesman.

The Cairo talks were concentrating on the arrangements for elections to a Palestinian council that will run autonomy on the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Palestinian delegate Hasan 'Asfur warned that suspending the talks for a long period "would not help the peace process. On the contrary, it will only create more complexities."

"We appreciate the position that the Israeli government has been put in because of the kidnapping, but we hope their reaction will not be for too long. We should not submit to the opponents of peace or else it will only let them score points," 'Asfur told AFP.

'Asfur condemned the kidnapping of Wachsman as "a provocative move against the Palestinian Authority."

Palestinian leaders "will not give any element the chance to disrupt the negotiation process and destroy the peace process," 'Asfur said.

'Arafat condemned the kidnapping, while cooperation "minister" Nabil Sha'th said he hoped talks with Israel would resume soon.

"This is a major problem we are facing, it is temporary until we find a solution to the problem of the kidnapping," Sha'th said. "The authority is doing its best to find him alive."

The two sides agreed Tuesday night, prior to the Israeli party's departure, to keep in contact to set a date for the next round of negotiations, 'Asfur said.

The negotiations were to resume here Wednesday morning. The Palestinian delegation will now head for the Gaza Strip Wednesday evening.

'Arafat is due in Alexandria Friday for talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Rothschild Faults Palestinians' 'Academic Approach'

TA1110114794 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Oct 94 p 3

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli and Palestinian negotiators agreed yesterday to establish a supervisory committee to arbitrate issues concerning voter eligibility, including the right of prisoners to vote, during talks on Palestinian elections.

Maj. Dani Rothschild, the chief Israeli negotiator, told THE JERUSALEM POST by phone that the committee would be made up of three judges from each side.

They would discuss appeals by Palestinians who find they are not on the voting rolls and would handle other technical issues as they emerge.

Israel also agreed to allow Palestinian prisoners to vote, "except those who are under interrogation, and those who committed serious crimes against Israelis and are imprisoned in Israel," he said.

Some 6,000 Palestinians are still in prison for security offenses, many of them members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Rothschild clarified that there was no Israeli ruling preventing a Hamas supporter from voting.

However, a change had crept into the formulation of the three conditions under which a Palestinian party could participate. Those who have "racist platforms," "call for Israel's destruction," or "continue to call for terror against Israel" would be barred, Rothschild said.

[A similar report by Ori Nir on page A5 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 11 October cites Rothschild as saying in "a telephone interview last night" that "because of the Palestinian delegation's 'academic approach,'" "the negotiations are still insufficiently businesslike."]

Differences Persist in Palestinian-Israel Talks

NC1110174594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli talks on legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza, has said that the two sides discussed concepts pertaining to the legislative council, its makeup and nature. He remarked that the two sides exchanged views in that connection.

In a statement following a session of the talks in Cairo this afternoon, 'Urayqat said that there is a disparity of views and disagreements. He stressed, however, that it is too early to make a judgement. He added that negotiations are proceeding in a cordial working atmosphere, with hopes that the points of dispute will be narrowed tomorrow.

He pointed out that he expects tomorrow's talks to discuss the redeployment and the other negotiating committees, in addition to the committee that will review laws, so that all committees can work in parallel. He affirmed that both sides have clearly defined concepts.

'Urayqat said that the Palestinian delegation presented its reply concerning the joint committee Israel wants to set up to discuss elections and the candidates. He noted that the difference revolves around the mechanism and powers of supervision. He remarked that the elections are ultimately a Palestinian issue.

He added that the Palestinian side is taking Israeli interests into consideration. Once an agreement is reached, the implementation mechanism will belong to the Palestinian Central Committee for Elections, he said.

For his part, Israeli Delegation Chairman Dani Rothschild said that the two sides are resuming their negotiations on the disputed points. He hoped these matters will be settled tomorrow.

The spokeswoman of the Israeli delegation said that the two sides will resume their discussion of the various issues from different viewpoints tomorrow.

Head of Palestinian Delegation on Cairo Talks

JN1210002094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel, in Cairo, by corrrespondent Ahmad Zaki in the studio, on 10 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zaki] Dr. Sa'ib, what are the issues that you have discussed during the Palestinian-Israeli round of talks, and what are the remarks that were submitted by the Palestinian delegation?

['Urayqat] Today, one round was held in the afternoon. In this round, we submitted two working papers to the Israeli delegation. The first was on the political setup of the transitional period. As you know, there is, as stated in the Declaration of Principles [DOP], the *Palestinian interim self-government authority or the PISGA* [italicized words in English]. This, we believe, forms an umbrella for the council that will be elected, for the security forces, for the judiciary body, the several administrations, and for the banking system. We have specified to them [the Israelis] the mechanism of the elements, including the council. They believe that the council is the authority. I believe this is wrong according to the DOP. Therefore, we submitted to them a paper on the difference. We also submitted another paper in which we said that elections are an internal Palestinian affair. It is unreasonable to have a joint Israeli-Palestinian panel for elections as they request. Joint panels are usually set up between two entities, states, or establishments to follow up mutual interests.

[Zaki] Was this issue solved?

['Urayqat] In fact, it was not solved. But this was our response and position. We asked them to respond to the many papers we submitted. They are nine papers. We asked for their opinion on the setup of the council and the number of members. They said they did not complete their study. In fact, the basic issue that should be discussed to make a real progress is the setup of the council. We agreed last week that the council will be elected by the people, but there must be a separation between the powers of the council, that is, the legislative and executive powers. They did not provide any response to these ideas. We hope that before the end of this round on Wednesday that they will give answers, because as you know during the meeting held between His Excellency President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, they agreed to meet after one month at the summit level to discuss elections. So we have a time ceiling of one month. This is the second round. There are, at the most, two rounds left. We must, as the president said in his instructions to us, make progress in holding elections no later than the end of this year.

[Zaki] Did the Israeli side propose excluding the opposition from the legislative elections during the Cairo negotiations?

['Urayqat] These ideas were discussed in the previous round. They did not raise the issue of opposition, but ideas on supporting the peace process. We told them then that such ideas should be overlooked because they undermine the simplest principles of democracy. We are not here to tailor a new democracy for regimes. We are talking about a real democracy and general elections, according to the DOP. General elections mean the participation of all regardless of their political, intellectual, and ideological beliefs. More important than these details is that we want to establish the nature of the council. This is the key and the basis. We told them that the election law is ready once approved by the authority. We hope it will ratify it in the next few days. This law will then be presented to our people and Palestinian opposition parties for criticism. Then a copy will be given to the Israeli delegation. The DOP has stipulated a number of issues, which we call Israeli concerns, which we said we will negotiate.

[Zaki] Dr. Sa'ib, what is Israel's goal through dividing legislative elections?

['Urayqat] In fact, we are not talking about dividing legislative elections. Israel cannot do so. We agreed that the Oslo DOP be the term of reference for the peace process. We say it frankly, that the elections themselves are a part. We entered a new stage of talks. These talks should include talks on redeployment of Israeli troops outside the densely populated areas in the West Bank, coupled with a deployment of Palestinian forces, which will oversee public order according to the DOP. Therefore, there must be a panel for revising laws and another panel for transferring the rest of authorities in order to finalize the phased agreement. This is the goal of the new round of talks. We have proposed this to them and hope to hear a positive answer so that four work panels will meet next week and so that we can finalize all that we have to do before the end of this year and to hold the elections on the date set by President 'Arafat.

[Zaki] It was reported that election lists for the council elections will be completed soon. Has agreement been reached on some of the authorities of the legislative council?

['Urayqat] First, concerning voters lists, we had earlier asked the Israeli side to supply us with the civil status records, especially as regards the West Bank and East Jerusalem. We agreed last week that a team led by Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah, head of the Palestinian Statistics Center, along with some experts, will obtain copies from the Israeli side. Once we receive these records, we will embark on re-registration and verification. We will announce in the papers, especially that we are about to open the regional offices in the West Bank, that those who will turn 18 on 1 December should come and register their names and get the voting cards. This team, headed by Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah, along with some experts in statistics and population records, will next Sunday go to the Israeli departments to get these records. Following that we will start verifying these lists and registering voters.

[Zaki] Where will the regional electoral offices be distributed? What is their number and what are their tasks?

['Urayqat] First, concerning the regional electoral offices, their total number is not yet specified. We are talking about 11 offices. They will be in charge of verifying the civil status records and issuing voting cards, and overseeing the training process. We will interview at Bi'r Zayt University on Friday the 150 persons who were selected and whose names were announced in the papers two days ago. They will be trained to become trainers. After 10 days, each trainer will sign a contract with the electoral panel to give three courses to 15 students in the area of his residence. This means that 150 trainers will give training to 5,000 to run some 1,500 polling centers in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

[Zaki] Did you discuss or will you discuss the issue of detainees in the Israeli prisons?

['Urayqat] This issue is on the agenda in terms of voters, elections , and taking part in elections. We submitted a paper to the Israeli delegation. We said that the DOP preamble stipulates ending decades of conflict and a historic reconciliation. Therefore, all Palestinian people should take part, particularly the detainees, who should be released to be able to take part in the general elections. The issue of detainees is being discussed by another panel. But this issue is part of the elections issue. The Israeli position on this issue was not positive. But tomorrow this issue will be discussed again. We have told them that the detainees did what they did upon orders from their leadership, which signed an agreement with the Government of Israel. It is unreasonable for the leadership to sign agreements and start implementing the peace process on the ground while those who carried out the leadership orders remain in prison. This is illogical.

[Zaki] Back to elections, how would you evaluate today's round?

['Urayqat] It is premature to judge things. Today we submitted papers, and they submitted a paper.

[Zaki] What is in the Israeli paper?

['Urayqat] It is about the form of the agreed supervision. It is too early to evaluate the round. We can do that on Wednesday evening, the last day of this round. We want to say that we asked the Israeli side to give their opinion on the setup of the council and our papers. They said they had to study them. We hope that they will do that because that is the key to talks on elections.

[Zaki] How does the Israeli side interpret the issue of legislative elections within the Palestinian-Israeli Oslo agreement?

['Urayqat] They do not object to the principle of legislative and executive natures of the council. Some of their objections may have premeditated political aspects and ideas that have nothing to do with elections. This is what we are trying to resolve.

[Zaki] Thank you, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to Cairo talks.

Jordan's Chief Negotiator on Elat Talks

JN1110211994 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chief Jordanian negotiator to peace talks with Israel, Fayiz al-Tarawinah, has said the two sides are engaged in deep discussions of major issues and expressed hope for a breakthrough.

Dr. al-Tarawinah was speaking to reporters in the Israeli Red Sea port of Elat after the first session in this round of Jordan-Israeli negotiations.

He said that the two sides would soon begin border demarcation in the open area of Wadi al-'Arabah. However, he added, drawing the frontier in the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley areas needed field visits by experts, planning, maps, and other technical matters.

He said the two sides were engaged in serious discussion of all items on their common agenda and expressed hope to achieve a breakthrough in the next stage.

Dr. al-Tarawinah said the two sides were trying to lay down ground work for regional cooperation in the post-peace era, particularly with regard to roads, the economy, environment, and other areas of future cooperation. However, he said, such major political issues of sovereignty, as water sharing, territory, and drawing the boundary were the most fundamental of the peace process.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Informed of Iraqi Withdrawal Decision

NC1110131194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League, notified Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at a meeting today of the Iraqi Government's decision to move back the military units deployed in al-Basrah to rear positions.

In a statement after the meeting, the Iraqi ambassador said that last night Iraq decided to move back the military units to rear positions to complete its preplanned military training in response to the wishes of "a number of regional and international friends."

He added that Iraq made that decision out of its belief that the major goal is to preserve security and stability. Najm continued, saying that concern over the movement of the Iraqi troops within the borders, "which is an act of sovereignty," does not constitute a threat to any region so long as it is inside Iraq.

Ambassador Nabil Najm said that in view of requests by friendly states concerning what he termed "a fabricated crisis" over Iraqi troops' presence inside Iraqi territory, the Iraqi Government decided to move its troops back, hoping that diplomatic efforts would help resolve the basic problem represented in the continued embargo imposed on the Iraqi people.

He added that the key to peace among all the parties in the Gulf region, particularly Iraq's neighbors, lies in lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq and helping create a more positive atmosphere between Iraq and its neighbors.

He pointed out that Iraq has not substituted a military policy for its diplomatic policy, as he put it.

On whether the retreat of the Iraqi troops means an end to the crisis, Ambassador Najm explained that there is a 10-km-wide demilitarized zone between Iraq and

Kuwait, and the Iraqi troops are deployed outside this. He noted that Iraq conducted training maneuvers in the region in recent days.

He pointed out that what was said about this crisis was part of "a purposeful" policy. Some parties are trying to confuse matters in order to create tension and disputes among the parties in the region, he said. He added that the recent report prepared by Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN committee in charge of destroying the Iraqi mass destruction weapons, is being used by other parties to obstruct the lifting of the embargo.

The Iraqi envoy pointed out that UN Security Council Resolution 687 states that the embargo will be lifted once all mass destruction weapons programs have been eradicated.

Secretary General Issues Statement

JN1110211294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has expressed hope that the (?current) political and diplomatic endeavors will end the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people.

In a statement issued today after his meeting with Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League, 'Abd-al-Majid stated that Iraq is considered to be an additional force for Arab action. (?Hence), the Arab nation is (?very) eager not to harm Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He added: We look forward to restoring stability and security in the Gulf region and to resolving disputes by peaceful means. We hope that there will be no interference in the internal affairs [of regional states].

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 4 Oct

NC0810100494

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 4 October issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Muslim Awqaf Ministers To Meet 19 Oct
2. Ulemas View Family Planning, Youth Education, Other Issues
3. Simultaneous Adherence to Secularism, Islam Debated
4. Bulgarian Muslims' Mufti Interviewed

MUSLIM AWQAF MINISTERS TO MEET 19 OCT

A 60-word report on page 1 says that Awqaf (Religious Endowments) Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub will participate in the fifth conference of the Islamic countries' awqaf ministers slated to be held in Rabat, Morocco, between 19 and 21 October. The report adds that the conference will discuss the problems facing the Islamic world and the means of achieving Islamic unity.

ULEMAS VIEW FAMILY PLANNING, YOUTH EDUCATION, OTHER ISSUES

A 2,000-word report by Mamduh al-'Ishari on pages 4 and 5 details the visit by the 'AQIDATI convoy of scholars and ulemas to Kafr al-Hima, Markaz Ashmun, al-Minufiyah Governorate, during which they answered questions from citizens that came from the town and surrounding villages. The questions mostly deal with Islam's view of good neighborliness between individuals, family planning, and female circumcision. All the scholars cite extensively from the Koran and from Prophet Muhammad's life to highlight the importance of maintaining ties of good neighborliness and of helping and respecting neighbors' rights. To a question from Yasin 'Abd-al-Rahman on the right way to educate Muslim youth "amid the destructive trends surrounding us from all sides," Dr. Fathi Muhriz, psychology professor at the Education College, al-Azhar University, says that "we have to try to find work for young people so that they are preoccupied by work and by earning an honest living. Additionally, they should follow the teachings of God's book, follow the example of his prophet, read the Koran, go to the mosque, and listen to the ulemas' views. These things will pacify their souls and purify their hearts." The questions then move on to abortion. Dr. Yahya Salim Salih, teacher of Islamic Culture at the al-Da'wah College, al-Azhar University, denies that Muslim ulemas have ruled that abortion is permissible at all times. He adds: "If family planning is meant to tackle poverty, then it is rejected by religion. But if it is arranged through a faithful Muslim doctor when the woman's health is at stake, then religion approves it." Moving on to the question of female circumcision, Dr. Sabri 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, teacher of comparative jurisprudence and head of the Islamic and Arab Studies Center at the Dental College, al-Azhar University, says that this involves removing only a tiny part of the female's organ, as the prophet once advised. He adds that "removal of the whole part would create sexual frigidity, which results in homosexuality and this is what Islam's enemies want. They want the woman to be excited and ready whenever they want her so as to satisfy their desires and lust. Do we respond to these desires or to Islam's orders?" He then goes on to say: "The fault is not with Islam but with us. I tell the enemies of Islam to take their hands off Islam and off women. Muslim women are chaste women who fear God and protect their honor." Dr. Yahya Salim then explains the best age for performing the circumcision rite, depending on the health of the girl.

SIMULTANEOUS ADHERENCE TO SECULARISM, ISLAM DEBATED

A 1,100-word report by Jamal Salim on page 10 gives the views of various figures on an interview 'AQIDATI had previously conducted with Dr. Jabir 'Asfur, secretary general of the Higher Council for Culture, in which he said that he was both a secularist and a Muslim. The views presented in the report reject this combination of two conflicting concepts.

Former Culture Minister Dr. Ahmad Haykal is first cited as saying that the concept of secularism is a Western one that separates the state and religion and it does not recognize the latter as relevant when laws are passed and this is rejected by Islam. Shaykh Mahmud 'Abd-al-Wahhab Fayid, secretary of the shari'ah societies, says that "as long as the secularist does not deny any of the tenets of religion, then he is a Muslim and there is no contradiction here. But if he denies any of Islam's tenets, then he cannot combine being a Muslim and a secularist. Separation between Islam and the state is not known to Islam." As to Dr. Mustafa al-Shak'ah, former dean of the 'Ayn Shams College of Literature, he says that a person cannot be both secularist and a Muslim at the same time since the secularist cares only about earthly matters while Islam covers both the temporal and the afterlife. Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, teacher at al-Da'wah College, warns of those who adapt their views and ideas to suit their circumstances and surroundings. He adds: "With Muslims, such people declare that they abide by Islam and have no qualms even about claiming to be the shaykhs of Islam. With secularists, we find them dropping the cloak of Islam, attacking it, and calling for destruction of its principles." Dr. Sa'd Zalam expresses amazement at those who claim to embrace both Islam and secularism. After saying that the concept of secularism depends on intellect and excludes religion from the circle of intellectual activity, he says that this nullifies the claim of those who claim to be both at the same time. He accuses Dr. 'Asfur of advocating in a newspaper article the destruction of Islam's principles in order for Muslims to make progress. He adds: "This secular call seeks to destroy and uproot Islam. In view of this, could a secular person be a Muslim too?"

BULGARIAN MUSLIMS' MUFTI INTERVIEWED

On page 20, the paper carries an 800-word interview with Shaykh Fikri Salih Husayn, the mufti of Bulgaria's Muslims by Muhammad al-Abnudi. Shaykh Husayn begins by detailing the measures taken by the Bulgarian authorities against the more than 3.5 million Muslims, including laws that limit the activities of Muslim charities and the renovation of mosques. He also mentions that "thousands have been fired from their jobs following the privatization policy which ended with Bulgarians owning the companies. Hundreds of thousands are now without jobs following the elimination of the collectives system." He then notes that Islamic charities are helping the poor, the jobless, and the destitute, though they can only denounce and condemn the government's measures without being able to do anything about them. He then says that Muslim schools are privately run and the government could close them down at any time. He adds that there is also a shortage of Muslim teachers from Islamic countries to teach the Arabic language. He appeals to the Muslims countries to send teachers and to raise the Muslims' cause in the international forums so as to stop the unjust campaign against them.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 4 Oct

NC0810103094

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 4 October edition of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Cleric Laments Arabs' Detachment From Islam
2. 'Biggest' Arrest Campaign Reported in al-Minya

CLERIC LAMENTS ARABS' DETACHMENT FROM ISLAM

In his 250-word weekly column "This Is Our Religion" on page 12, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali laments pan-Arabism, which "in the arms of Islam stood for good upbringing, culture, rule by Islamic law (shari'ah), and a great heritage. But when it was detached from Islam, or was wanted as a substitute for it, its people became ill-cultured and immoral, had to go begging for their laws, and turned their backs on their heritage."

In contrast, he notes that after a 70-year struggle with Arabs, Israel is a strong state recognized by East and West. "Over 20 Arab states compete to win Israel's favor," he says.

He regrets that Judaism represents "a religion and a state" while it is impermissible for Islam to create a state that rules by shari'ah and preserves divine principles.

Admitting that Muslims are suffering from "heavy defeats," he is surprised that the vanquished one should claim to be a hero, puts on the robes of a leader, and expects the masses to applaud him. He thinks it is astonishing that a Lebanese army is still fighting on Israel's side against Arabs and that "an Arab president" should invade Kuwait rather than Tel Aviv.

He concludes that "Arabs will continue declining so long as they reject Islam as a course of education and culture, as a governing law and a philosophy, and as a way of life and social foundation."

'BIGGEST' ARREST CAMPAIGN REPORTED IN AL-MINYA

An 800-word report from al-Minya by an "AL-SHA'B correspondent" on page 9 talks about "the biggest arrest campaign against the Islamic Group members and zealots in al-Minya Governorate in the past few days." The report claims that the campaign involved students in preparatory and secondary schools.

According to the report, the Islamic Groups's mosque in the city of al-Minya, al-Rahman Mosque, was stormed by the state security forces on 20 September during preparations for holding the weekly Tuesday *meeting*. The troops fired shots, chased the group members and worshippers onto the streets, and used nerve-paralyzing masks to block resistance. The report adds that the security forces stormed the mosque on 27 September, arrested all worshippers, and opened fire at a citizen when he tried to escape.

The report notes that more than 80 citizens were arrested in al-Minya in the past two weeks, while engineer Usamah Hafiz, "amir of the Islamic Group in al-Minya," is still being detained in the al-'Aqrab jail.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Expected To Meet Mubarak, Christopher

NC1010070294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo within the next few days on a visit, during which he will meet with President Husni Mubarak.

Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah told AL-AHRAM today that 'Arafat will brief President Mubarak on the latest developments in the Palestinian arena and the self-rule areas and the outcome of negotiations in Cairo and Gaza between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

Al-Qidrah added that 'Arafat is expected to meet in Cairo with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is touring the region.

Yasir 'Arafat Returns From Visit to Morocco

JN1110211694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, President of the Palestinian National Authority, returned to the homeland after a visit to Morocco during which he participated in the funeral of Khalid al-Hasan, head of the Palestine National Council's Foreign Relations Committee.

Before leaving Morocco, 'Arafat met with King Hassan II and discussed with him developments of the peace process in the region and participation in the international economic conference on the Middle East and North Africa which will be held in Casablanca in late October. 'Arafat said that he will participate in the economic conference and that Palestine attaches great hopes to it on both the economic and political levels.

Israeli Soldier Kidnapped in Gaza Strip Area

Hamas Announces Kidnapping

JN1110194494 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1749 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brothers in struggle and the revolution, we just received the following bulletin: A short while ago, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, announced the kidnapping of a Zionist soldier in the Gaza Strip area. The soldier's voice has been recorded and sent to foreign news agencies. Hamas has demanded the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

The announcement of the kidnapping of the soldier came amid the celebration of the martyrdom of the two heroes who carried out the heroic Jerusalem operation. The celebrations were still going on in Gaza when this bulletin was prepared.

'Arafat Condemns Kidnapping

JN1210072494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has denounced the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier in Gaza and said he considers it an attempt to defy and embarrass the National Authority. President Yasir 'Arafat said that he is following the issue with concern and that he has issued instructions to the competent bodies to follow up on the issue.

His excellency last night received a telephone call from the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier, for which Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has claimed responsibility.

President 'Arafat also received an appeal from the mother and family of the kidnapped soldier asking for his humanitarian assistance. The president reiterated to them his condemnation of the incident, and promised to do his best to help in this issue.

PA Trying To Find Soldier

TA1210070794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, head of the Israeli desk in the Palestinian Authority [PA], said the Palestinians are making every possible effort to return abducted soldier Nahshon Wachsman to his parents. The PA is committed to undertaking every possible effort to find the soldier, because his abduction is a personal affront to Yasir 'Arafat. According to Abu-Zayidah, Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] political leadership does not know anything about the abduction, and, consequently, the key is in the hands of Hamas' military arm.

He added that the suspected abductors, Kamal Kuhayl and 'Abd-Rabbuh Abu-Husa, were wanted by the authorities even back when Israel controlled the Gaza Strip. He rejected accusations that the Palestinian leadership is hesitant about taking action against Hamas, saying there are other lines of action besides the use of force. Abu-Zayidah added that the Palestinian police has arrested suspected perpetrators of attacks on Israelis and that it will not let the Gaza Strip become a safe haven for terrorists who want to harm the peace process. Nevertheless, he added, the Palestinians insist on their demand that Israel release prisoners held in Israeli jails.

Hamas Official Discusses 'Jerusalem Operation'

MM1110140594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Oct 94 pp 1, 4

[Reports by 'Ali Nun in London, Ruba al-Husari in Damascus, and Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus: "Hamas: Jerusalem Operation Was Antisettlement Message to Washington"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held talks yesterday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on points of contention on the Israeli-Syrian negotiation track. He emphasized that the operation carried out by two Hamas members in Jerusalem Sunday/Monday night, in which four people were killed and 14 were wounded including a U.S. official, would not affect U.S. and Israeli determination to proceed with the peace process.

The Hamas operation occurred just 200 meters away from the hotel where Christopher was staying. In a telephone interview with AL-HAYAH, Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah said that it was "a message to Christopher and the United States against the current so-called peace process." [passage omitted]

Ghawshah, Hamas's official spokesman, confirmed his movement's responsibility for the operation and, in his telephone interview, told AL-HAYAH "the opration was an honor and it was carried out on the fourth anniversary of the massacre committed at the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and in continuation of the operations promised by al-Qassam Squads.... It was a message to the Zionists, Christopher, the United States, and anyone who claims that the so-called peace process—which, in our view, is a capitulation process—is still valid while the Palestinian people are homeless and the Jews control everything."

In reply to a question, he said that "the jihad will continue and these young men will prove to the nation that the process will be long and very costly."

When told that Hamas had pledged not to attack civilians, Ghawshah said: "We previously declared that Hamas was prepared to stop attacking Israeli civilians if Rabin halted his operations against Palestinian civilians, but that did not happen. Only last week they killed three in Hebron.... We are giving them reciprocal treatment, which is the least we can do."

Ghawshah pointed out that the Jerusalem operation occurred about 200 meters from the King David Hotel where Christopher was staying. He added: "It is a message to Christopher and the United States...that the Palestinian people reject that peace process." He said that the operation and the developments on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border "have shaken Christopher's position and greatly upset his concentration on his mission" pertaining to the Syrian-Israeli negotiation track. He added that "that balloon has now been pierced."

Asked if these words did not run contrary to Hamas's good relations with Syria, he replied: "We are fighting and facing the occupation. We are not fighting to foil the Palestinian, Jordanian, or Syrian tracks, but there can be no doubt that our operations dwarf these negotiations and show the cultural conflict between the Arab and Islamic nations on the one hand and the Zionists and the West on the other." In reply to another question, Ghawshah emphasized that there has been no political dialogue between Hamas and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and "as official spokesman of the movement I emphatically say that there will be no political dialogue with him and we will neither participate in the autonomous government nor in his elections." [passage omitted]

Official Denies al-Jawhari Palestinian Policeman

JN1010191294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received the following:

Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civilian affairs at the National Authority [NA] said in Amman today that the Egyptian national who was killed while participating in a bloody attack in Jerusalem last night was not a Palestinian policeman. Al-Tarifi also said that he entered Israel as a tourist.

Al-Tarifi, currently in Amman, added that the NA has no relationship with 'Isam Isma'il al-Jawhari, who was recruited by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which claimed responsibility for the attack.

'Arafat To Run in Election for Council Head

TA1010144994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The autonomy talks are due to resume at this hour in Cairo. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the head of the Palestinian delegation on elections in the territories, told Qol Yisra'el that contrary to earlier press reports, Yasir 'Arafat will not be appointed as head of the Palestinian council, but would stand for election. He added that the Palestinians are demanding that the elections and the concurrent IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, which according to the Oslo agreement accompany them, must be held by the end of the year.

Fatah Official on Relations With Israel

TA0710153294 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Oct 94 p 9

[Interview with Marwan al-Barghuthi, secretary general of the West Bank Fatah Supreme Committee, by Pinhas 'Inbari on 5 October; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Inbari] What exactly is going on between Israel and Fatah and whom is Israel detaining?

[Al-Barghuthi] In recent months, Israel has detained dozens of Fatah field activists throughout the West Bank. Not only activists were detained but also leadership figures, such as 'Ali Dahlallah from Bethlehem, who is a member of the Fatah Supreme Committee. Key activists, such as Khalid Matur and Nasr Da'ud, were also detained. Yesterday, (4 October 1994) between 10 and 15 activists were detained in Baytuniya.

Concurrently with the detentions, Israel has launched an extensive land expropriation drive designed to permit settlements to expand. About 2,000 dunam have been expropriated in Kawbar, my village. The expropriated land is adjacent to my own home. We are going to appeal this expropriation. Lands have been expropriated in Hebron and Qalqilyah as well.

['Inbari] How do you explain it? Why should Israel choose this time to act against Fatah?

[Al-Barghuthi] I cannot explain it. I have been wondering about it. Perhaps some defense circles have been unable to come to terms with the peace process.

['Inbari] There have been many reports recently about turmoil inside Fatah. Can you tell me what is going on?

[Al-Barghuthi] We have embarked on a new phase. Since the organization used to deal with military matters, its structure was based on secrecy. The situation has changed, because we now have a national authority. We need to reorganize in anticipation of the national authority's establishment in the West Bank. We had certain assignments during the occupation period. Now we want to give up these military assignments, which are now the responsibility of the national authority's security forces and of the Palestinian police. We want a public, a civilian task. This requires an internal Fatah reorganization.

['Inbari] Do you plan to establish a political party?

[Al-Barghuthi] No, we will not set up a party before a state is established. We will remain a movement. The organization's structure will be similar to that of a party, but we will not adopt a party's political philosophy or platform.

['Inbari] What changes do you plan to introduce in the structure?

[Al-Barghuthi] We want to hold elections to Fatah institutions everywhere, in villages and cities. We want every village and every city to send representatives to the general assembly, and the elected assembly will elect the supreme institutions.

['Inbari] Does PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat support this reform?

[Al-Barghuthi] He is not opposed to it. In any event, this is our business, first and foremost. We want a democratic state. It will only work if we introduce democracy on every level and in every institution. We believe in the domestic revolution. Any Palestinian element that fails to reorganize and update its plan will have to fold.

['Inbari] What do you know about the opposition groups' stand on the elections? Will they participate in them after all?

[Al-Barghuthi] Everyone will participate in the elections. Right now, they are ready to participate in the municipal elections but are still against participating in general elections, but I believe they will have no choice. They have no alternative. I do not think they will be able to waive participation in the Palestinian parliament, when one is elected.

['Inbari] According to some reports, the PLO and Israel prefer to hold municipal elections before the general elections. What is your position?

[Al-Barghuthi] We are against holding municipal elections before the general elections to the legislative council. To hold municipal elections now, we would have to coordinate with Israel and obtain its approval. This, however, is a domestic Palestinian matter. If we do it after the elections to the legislative council, Israel will not be able to intervene.

Split Within Fatah Noted by Committee Member

TA1110181894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Oct 94 p 8

[Report by Munir 'Abd-al-Rahman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, QUDS PRESS—A senior Fatah official has said that there is a split within Fatah. Sakhr Habash, member of the Fatah Central Committee, said that there is "objection and reservation" within Fatah ranks to the Palestinian-Israeli self-rule agreement. He said that "Israel contributed in deepening the disagreement within Fatah when it tried to impose a selective peace during implementation of the agreement." He added: "Israel negotiates with whomever it wants and prevents anyone that it wishes from returning. It does so under various pretexts, all of which fall within the title of Israeli security."

Habash, who supervises the internal media in Fatah, said that the multiplicity of statements issued in the West Bank in the name of Fatah reflects the existing disagreement "and expresses the denunciation of official and nonofficial Israeli policies." He added, however, that it is necessary to be accurate in the texts of these statements "because many of them are issued by different intelligence agencies that are interested in expanding the existing disagreement and discord."

The Palestinian official expressed the belief that Israel's banning of some Fatah leaders from returning because of their previous military activity against the occupation "gives them the right to continue their military operations without Israel being able to condemn these operations." [passage omitted]

Gaza Strip To Obtain First Oil Refinery

NC1010213994 Paris AFP in English 0845 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Oct 10 (AFP)—The privately-owned Palestinian Fuels Company announced plans Monday to build an oil refinery in the Gaza Strip at the start of 1995.

Company chairman Kenneth Hatfield said the refinery would handle only light oil with a start-up capacity of 20,000 barrels of crude a day.

A proposal would soon be submitted to Palestinian Authority chairman Yasir 'Arafat and include employment for 500 people, Hatfield said in a statement.

Financial support was expected from the U.S. Government as part of Vice-President Al Gore's "Builders for Peace" programme.

The refinery would fulfill U.S. environmental standards, said the company whose major shareholders are Palestinian businessmen working in oil marketing and sales.

Police Ban Busing of Political Groups

TA0710123694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police have issued an order banning bus companies in Gaza and Jericho from transporting groups organized by political factions without prior police approval. The Palestinian human rights organization has criticized the order, calling it a violation of the right of Palestinians to hold political gatherings.

Paper: U.S. Using 'Double Standards' in Region

TA1110182394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Oct 94 p 13

[Editorial: "The Drums of War and the Peace Efforts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday began his tour of the region, which originally was aimed at promoting peace efforts, by uttering threats and warnings against Iraq and by alluding to war and "the horrible price" that Iraq would have to pay if it violates the UN resolutions adopted at the start and during the Gulf crisis. At the same time, he emphasized that the United States will protect Israel.

These statements by Christopher coincided with the U.S. military buildup in the region, epitomized by the dispatch of more forces and equipment of war and destruction to the Gulf. This, at a time when the siege against Iraq is continuing and when international reports affirmed that this siege, which the United States is insisting should be kept up, is annually resulting in the death of tens of thousands of Iraqi children, women, and old people.

Although the U.S. secretary ignored the fact that the Iraqi people are an Arab people affiliated with the peoples between whom Israel and Washington wants peace to be fostered, and although Secretary Christopher ignored all UN resolutions relating to Arab issues which Israel refuses to accept or implement—not only from two or three years ago but for scores of years—the question to Secretary Christopher, who raises the slogan of advancing the peace process in the region, is: At the beginning of his tour, why didn't the secretary demand that Israel implement the UN resolutions? Of course, we will not ask him: Why didn't he address the same threats and warnings to Israel that he addressed to Iraq, which so far has not taken any step to occupy the lands of others while Israel has been occupying the West Bank and Gaza Strip since 1967, South Lebanon since 1982, the Golan Heights since 1967, and Jordanian territory?

If the aim of Christopher's tour is to advance the peace process in the region, do not the Iraqi people have the right to live in security, peace, and stability as other peoples of the world? Or are these people, whose civilization has been rooted in this land for thousands of years, not part of the Middle East region and have no right to be included in its peace plans?

These are the same double standards that the United States uses and has used to deal with the resolutions of international legitimacy. These double standards raise doubts about the credibility and ability of the United States to play the role of an honest broker in the peace process. They are the same double standards that have reinforced violations of the rights of Arabs, disregard of their causes, and plundering of their wealth in this part of the world. With such a state of affairs, how can the Arab nations become convinced that Secretary Christopher or other officials are seeking in their shuttle tours to achieve a peace that guarantees their security and stability?

We do not need answers to these questions, but the U.S. Administration should take them into account when it deals with this region, when it alludes to war or peace in it, and when it raises the banner of a new world order. However, the more important thing which Washington cannot ignore is that real peace in this region cannot be achieved unless it is based on the rights and aspirations of the region's peoples and that what is imposed by force is doomed to destruction. Numerous historical experiences are the best proof of this.

PFLP Denounces U.S. 'Military Escalation'

LD1210094094 Tripoli JANA in English 0833 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, al Timour [October] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] said yesterday that America and its allies are responsible for the mounting tension in the Arab Gulf area. The front issued a statement saying that it sees the military escalation as an affair that has to be denounced and condemned. It added that America and its allies are adopting a policy of revenge and starvation against the Iraqi people.

The front said that America is returning, furthermore, to the policy of military escalation and troops deployment in the Gulf to place the area in the face of serious confrontations that might eliminate the remaining resources in the Gulf.

Algeria

Car Bomb Explosions Reported in Algiers Areas

Explosions at University, School

LD1210093094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 0858 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A car-bomb exploded this morning outside the gate of Algiers Central University. The explosive had been planted in a car parked a few meters away from the entrance gate of the university. The fire brigade intervened immediately to put out the fire. Fortunately the explosion did not result in any casualties and only one person was injured [as heard]. [video shows burned car outside the university]

Another car bomb exploded at the campus for girls in Ben Aknoun [Algiers district] at about 0815 [0715 GMT] this morning. The explosion did not cause any damage. [video shows another burned car]

Blast Near Justice Ministry

LD1210094594 Paris LCI Television in French 0930 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] News just in: There has just been a fourth blast caused by a car bomb near the Justice Ministry in El Biar on Algiers heights. We do not know whether there are any casualties.

There have been four attacks in Algeria this morning within a very short period of time.

French Envoy Summoned Over Minister's Remarks

LD1110192694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Bernard Kessedjian, the French ambassador in Algiers, was summoned today to the Foreign Ministry following the interview of French Defense Minister Francois Leotard with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday.

The French Ambassador was asked to bring explanations and clarifications for Leotard's remarks, which included value judgments, part of which can be construed as interference in the political dialogue inside Algeria.

Security Forces 'Eliminate,' Capture 'Terrorists'

Kill 2, Arrest 2 in Bouira

LD0810104194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement released today by the security services announces that the security forces eliminated two terrorists and arrested another two last Tuesday in the province of Bouira. The same source explained that information provided by citizens enabled the security forces to eliminate a terrorist named Ouabed Boualem who was wanted in the area of Texenna and to recover an automatic handgun, a shotgun and ammunition. In another development the security services' statement adds that the security forces on the same day eliminated a 37-year old terrorist named Benslimane Mohamed, injured two others, and arrested them. They were Chebira Messaoud aged 29 years and Cherif Achour nick-named Boulaaraf. A handgun and a shotgun were recovered, according to the statement.

Kill 5 in M'Sila, Oum El-Bouaghi

LD0810193294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A Security Services statement said that the security forces had killed five terrorists between Wednesday and Thursday [5-6 October] in M'Sila and Oum El-Bouaghi provinces, and that during this operation a large quantity of weapons was recovered.

The same source added that the security forces had found two bodies in Sidi Daoud in Boumerdes Province and that they were identified as Ksous Hakim and Lagab Brahim who, the same source added, were assassinated by a terrorist gang.

25 Killed 6-9 Oct

LD1010201394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The security forces also announced in their statement that 25 terrorists were killed between Thursday and Sunday [6-9 October] in Boufarik, El Harrach, Skikda, Medea, Bouira, and Chlef.

'Terrorist' Belkacem 'Eliminated'

LD1110101694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services announced that the terrorist Taibi Belkacem, known as Noureddine, was eliminated last Saturday in Belcourt [in Algiers]. According to the same sources, Taibi Belkacem was being hunted by the security forces for carrying out many assassinations in the capital.

Five 'Terrorists' Killed by Security Forces

LD1110193694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A statement issued today by the security services said that five terrorists were killed last Sunday [9 October] by security forces in Tipaza, Bouira, and Chlef. [passage omitted]

Suspected Islamists Carry Out Killings

Killing of Frenchman Assailed

LD0810203294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Security Services said that the body of French national Jean-Pierre Maniere, 59, was found near Hamidi in Boumerdes province. The French national was assassinated. [passage omitted]

A Foreign Ministry statement said today that the Algerian Government received with deep sadness the news of the assassination of the French national Jean-Pierre Maniere.

The statement added that this horrible action, which targeted a French peaceful national, was perpetrated by those who decided to deplete the country of its dynamic forces by terrorism and violence.

The statement stressed that the Algerian Government strongly condemned this despicable assassination, which will not go unpunished. It said also that his aggression will not defeat the government's determination to eliminate terrorism.

In the end, the Foreign Ministry's statement said that in these painful circumstances, the government pays homage to the victim's soul and presents its condolences to the French authorities and family of the victim.

Another Frenchman Murdered

LD1010125694 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1200 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Another Frenchman was killed in Algeria today. A French national, aged 62, was killed in the suburbs of Algiers. He was a technician working for an Algerian broadcasting company. This murder follows the murder last week in Algeria of the managing director of an enterprise.

Security Officials Killed

NC1010115394 Paris AFP in English 1141 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Oct 10 (AFP)—Suspected Islamic fundamentalists at the weekend murdered a Algerian justice ministry official in the prison service and a chief inspector of police in the capital Algiers, press reports said Monday [10 October].

The official, Nourredine Chenoun, 28, was gunned down in the suburb of Hussein Dey on Saturday and the police officer, Redouane Kermal, 55, was killed on Sunday, the latest reported victims of a new wave of attacks on security agents in the Algiers region.

No official toll was available Monday of the number of security officials and police slain in recent days, according to witnesses and press reports, in attacks blamed on armed Moslem extremists fighting the secular authorities.

Meanwhile Monday, the daily En-Nahar reported that leaders of the most radical of the factions, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) recently met to appoint Abou Khalil Mahfoud, the former guerrilla chief in the so-called "Triangle of Death" in the Algiers region, new head of the GIA.

Abou Khalil Mahfoud is a pseudonym for Mahfoud Tadjine, 36, who lives in the fundamentalist Algiers suburban stronghold of The Eucalyptuses, and has been a GIA member since the movement was founded in 1992, according to En-Nahar, which is generally well-informed on guerrilla groups.

His appointment, if authenticated by the GIA, would confirm that the movement is rejecting a bid by the military-backed government of President Liamine Zeroual to draw extreme Islamic groups into talks to end the violent political crisis that began in 1992.

The army intervened in January that year to cancel the second round of Algeria's first free general elections since independence from France in 1962, once it was clear that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was bound to sweep the polls.

The regime recently freed Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, the two top leaders of the now outlawed FIS, who were serving jail terms on state security offences, but they have not said whether they are ready to join talks.

The GIA, which has called for "holy war" until the regime is toppled, has claimed responsibility for the murder of most of 62 foreigners it accuses of collaborating with the authorities and for a murderous terror campaign against teachers to enforce strict "Islamic" education.

Tadjine has already been sentenced to life imprisonment in his absence by an Algiers special court, one of three set up after the campaign of violence began to try those accused of "terrorism" and "subversion", En-Nahar said.

The En-Nahar report added weight to previous reports that the GIA had appointed "Abou Khalil Mahfoud" its chief, and not Mohamed Said, a former FIS activist earlier said to have taken up the post in a contradictory communique that has led to confusion.

Said was one of the FIS members elected to parliament in the first round of the poll. His election as GIA chief in place of Cherif Gousmi, killed in a shootout with police last month, would have indicated a move in favour of "political" alongside military activity by the movement, observers said.

A statement published by the London-based Al-Hayat daily last week announced Mahfoud's appointment as "emir" of the GIA and dropped all reference to Said, amid unconfirmed reports of a power struggle and successive meetings among the movement's leaders.

En-Nair said that Tadjine became a member of the GIA's ruling council, the Majliss ech-Choura, on the death of Mohamed Allah, the first GIA chief, in September 1992, and was given charge of the Algiers region.

Algeria's guerrilla war has claimed some 10,000 lives, according to officials.

Asian Man Shot in Head

NC1210110794 Paris AFP in English 1052 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Oct 12 (AFP)—An Asian was shot in the head Wednesday [12 October] morning in Bordj El Bahri, a coastal town east of Algiers, witnesses said.

It was not known if the victim, evacuated by his driver, was still alive. Unconfirmed reports said he was South Korean or Chinese.

Egypt

Mubarak, al-Qadhdhafi Discuss Gulf Developments

NC1110203794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2027 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call this evening from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution.

The two leaders exchanged views on developments resulting from the Iraqi move on the Kuwaiti borders, international reactions to these developments, and consequences involving the Gulf region.

Mubarak Discusses Peace With Rabin, 'Arafat

NC1110212394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak has received a telephone call from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, during which they discussed the developments in the peace process on all tracks. They also discussed the results of the ongoing contacts between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

President Mubarak also telephoned Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to exchange views on a number of issues related to the ongoing negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Musa Says Mubarak, 'Arafat, Christopher To Meet

NC1110205094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that President Husni Mubarak will hold a separate meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Alexandria on Friday [14 October] morning at the end of Secretary Christopher's Middle East tour. They will be joined later by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who will arrive in Alexandria on Friday, he added.

Musa noted that at the end of their talks, Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat and Secretary Christopher will hold a press conference. Musa did not rule out the possibility that progress in the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track may take place during Christopher's current tour. He pointed out that progress has been made in talks on the Palestinian elections.

On the current events in the Gulf, Musa stated that the situation remains the same, although there is a slow withdrawal by Iraq. He noted that what Iraq has done has set the situation back to where it used to be after the events of August 1990, despite what is being said about this being able to help lift or reduce the blockade on Iraq. He added: Things were moving in a direction that, were it not for what happened recently, could have helped lift the embargo on Iraq.

Asked about reports that Iraq's actions had led to a rise in oil prices, Musa said that these actions do not affect oil prices, which are governed by a number of mechanisms.

Musa Urges Iraq To Recognize Kuwait's Sovereignty

NC1110153894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt's principled stand on the Gulf crisis is that it is necessary for Iraq to recognize Kuwait as a sovereign state and to respect its territorial integrity. He said this recognition cannot be part of a deal, but is a fundamental issue because it will eliminate the current problem caused by the 1990 Iraqi aggression.

Musa added: There must be a principled change in Iraq's stand on this subject. When there are issues that undermine stability in the region, we cannot act by mobilizing armies and moving troops but must adopt a peaceful course. This course can lead to peace and consequently contribute to easing the Iraqi people's suffering. He said: The recent measures taken by Iraq were not helpful.

Asked whether an Arab plan can be adopted to solve this problem, Musa said: Of course, it is possible. However, the Arab situation is exhausted at present. He indicated that tomorrow the Gulf Cooperation Council will hold a meeting, which will be followed by consultations among the Damascus Declaration states.

Musa said: We believe the Arab League must play a role in this connection. There is plenty of time to discuss these matters because we are not seeking a quick or immediate framework for reorganizing the Arab house and for discussing this issue in all its aspects.

Asked about an Iraqi announcement of the withdrawal of its troops, Musa said this is considered the sole sound step, after which the discussion of this subject can begin.

Referring to a statement by the U.S. representative to the UN that there has been no withdrawal, but on the contrary a forward movement of troops, Musa said: We are following up the situation to see if there has actually been a withdrawal, which would be a sound step. If no withdrawal has taken place, there will be repercussions. He expressed the hope that the Iraqi troops have not moved forward.

Asked about reports that the United States will deal a blow to Iraq if it does not invade Kuwait, Musa said: I do not believe this statement is accurate.

Asked what will happen if the Iraqi forces remain in their current positions, Musa said: The situation as it was before the movement or advance of the Iraqi forces must be restored, especially as the United States is threatening that it will not stand idly by. We hope the situation will not deteriorate. The first step should be the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces.

Asked about the existence of a plot to partition Iraq, Musa said no partition or dismemberment of Iraq will take place. He added: Just as Kuwait's territorial integrity must be maintained, Iraq's territorial integrity must also be maintained. We must reaffirm this, which is a principled stand as far as Egypt is concerned. There is no difference between Kuwait and Iraq; the territorial integrity and unity of the two countries must be maintained.

Asked about the exhaustion of Arab resources that results from such events and disputes, Musa said that there are events and disputes that have been sapping Arab resources for a long time.

Musa Comments on Mubarak, Zambian Leader Talks

NC0910120494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the talks President Mubarak and Zambian President Frederick Shiluba held today centered on the development of trade relations and investment, technical assistance, a number of current African issues like Rwanda and Somalia, and the economic situation in the African continent.

Musa added that the talks dealt also with the issues on the agenda of the socioeconomic conference to be held by OAU foreign ministers in Cairo in April.

The talks dealt also with the mechanism of settling African disputes and the need to consolidate it and, accordingly, enhance the OAU contribution to the settlement of disputes, as well as the consolidation of precautionary diplomacy and peace-keeping operations in the African continent.

Musa added that the Egyptian side raised the issue of the situation in North Africa in general and the Middle East peace process. He added that the two delegations held a meeting as well.

President Shiluba and the delegation accompanying him paid a visit after the talks to the city called 10 Ramadan to get acquainted with Egyptian products.

Musa noted that President Shiluba invited President Mubarak to visit Zambia.

Zambia's Shiluba, Delegation Depart Cairo

NC1010091394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Zambian President Frederick Shiluba and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this morning following a three-day visit to Egypt, during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak on the general situation in Africa and a number of current issues, particularly the African economic situation. The talks focused also on the situation in Somalia, Rwanda, and Burundi, and the Middle East peace process.

President Mubarak saw the Zambian leader off at the airport.

The two leaders held talks in the Presidential Palace this morning. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the African continent, current regional and global issues, and ways to bolster bilateral ties.

Following the talks, the Zambian president was accorded an official farewell at the presidential headquarters. Senior state officials bade the Zambian guest farewell.

Female Circumcision Said Not Based on Religion

NC1110072294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—A higher committee formed to discuss female circumcision has affirmed that this practice is not based on religion but is an inherited custom that causes grave health and psychological problems for the woman, family, and society.

At its meeting today under Health Minister Dr. 'Ali Abd-al-Fattah and in the presence of Mufti of the Republic Imam Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, the committee reviewed the health, psychological, publicity, and social aspects of female circumcision.

The discussions revealed that female circumcision is an ancient and inherited custom and that there is no text in the Koran or the Hadith [authenticated sayings of Prophet Muhammad] regarding it. The Hadith on female circumcision was told in several ways, all of which are weak, unauthenticated, and dubious and hence cannot be relied upon.

The doctors participating in the meeting were unanimous that female circumcision is a dangerous practice that causes physical, psychological, and social problems. The doctors called for getting rid of this custom, which has no religious justification, and for adopting the necessary measures to curtail it and eventually eliminate it.

The committee affirmed the importance of religious enlightenment, in view of the spread of this custom among some sectors of society due to the lack of correct data about its health and psychological hazards. Moreover, this custom has acquired a religious dimension without a correct basis.

The committee recommended that the media and the health enlightenment departments play a major and key role in combating this custom and confronting it with all media resources in an integrated plan implemented by all government and nongovernment organizations, especially the mosques, places of worship, schools, and civil societies.

The committee explained that from the legal point of view the current legislation banning anyone who is not a doctor from practicing the medical profession can put a stop to those who illegally carry out circumcision because they are not doctors and are not licensed to carry out operations. The committee asked the health minister to issue instructions that would regulate male circumcision in accordance with sound scientific methods and enlighten women in hospitals and health clinics about the dangers of female circumcision.

The committee decided to form a working group from representatives of the ministries and the concerned government and nongovernment departments to draw up a long-term plan for religious and health enlightenment. The plan will be submitted to the committee at its next meeting.

The committee has 20 members, including men of religion, lawyers, sociologists, journalists, and doctors.

Al-Azhar Imam Receives Iranian Official

NC1010135494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—His Eminence Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, the grand al-Azhar imam, today received visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abbas Maleki and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting discussed the rapprochement of the various Islamic schools of thought.

The grand imam expressed his pleasure at the efforts being made in that connection, affirming that al-Azhar has played a significant, effective role in that field out of its belief in the need to unite Muslims by following the two major sources of legislation, the Koran and prophetic tradition.

Jad-al-Haqq stressed the need to forego sectarian fanaticism, emphasizing that Muslims should have a minimum level of concurrence on their political, economic, and social issues.

Saudis Said Financing Israeli Canal

NC0810133894 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 5 Oct 94 p 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-AHALI has learned that Saudi Arabia has agreed to finance the construction of a canal connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea via Israel. The agreement was reached during secret talks held between Israeli and Saudi officials in Washington.

No doubt this projected canal would seriously affect the Suez Canal and would, consequently, threaten Egypt's national income. This is true especially after the signing of a Jordanian-Israeli agreement to connect the Red Sea and the Dead Sea and the agreement signed between Qatar and Israel to supply the latter with natural gas directly from Doha through pipelines. Israel is also conducting studies to construct unloading ports at the Gulf of 'Aqaba where tankers and ships will unload their cargo for transshipment to the Mediterranean. This falls within the context of implementing the Middle East Common Market.

Meanwhile, AL-AHALI also learned that the European tour of the Suez Canal Authority chairman had failed to convince international navigation companies to promote navigation through the Suez Canal by means of long-term contracts due to Israel's infiltration of these companies. Israel intends to implement projects with the help and financing of Gulf states.

Experts believe that the Canal's revenues will greatly decline. Therefore, Egypt's sole option is to reduce the Canal's fees unless Israel imposes high tariffs to offset the expenses incurred on its projects. The experts voiced apprehension that Israel might create a huge free zone that would devour the transit business by transshipping the goods to the Gulf markets. [passage omitted]

Labor Party Rejects Morocco Economic Conference

NC0810134394 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Oct 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Labor Party has issued a statement on the economic summit to be held in Morocco in late October, affirming that it is closely following with caution and anger reports circulated on the Moroccan king's invitation to hold a summit on economic cooperation among the Middle Eastern and North African states. The source of concern and anger is the notion that this summit is designed to launch the Middle Eastern market project which is, in effect, the planned substitute for the Arab system. Control in that project will be in the hands of foreign powers and their accredited agent in the heart of the Arab homeland, in other words, Israel.

The statement notes that the invitation was not originally addressed to the Arab League, within whose framework the agreements on the Arab Common Market and Arab Economic Unity were signed. Moreover, the statement adds, the invitation has only been addressed so far to states that have established relations to a certain degree with the Zionist entity, either through a peace treaty, like Egypt, or a declaration of principles like the PLO or Jordan; or states like the United Arab Emirates, which is strongly linked to the United States, Israel's sponsor, or foreign states like the United States, Russia, Turkey, and the European Union.

Surprisingly enough, the statement adds, the invitation was extended to the Zionist entity as represented in its prime minister and the majority of its ministers. This implies that one of the summit's main objectives, though not the only one, is to achieve normalization.

Finally, inviting non-Arab states to attend a summit meeting on economic cooperation among the Middle Eastern and North African states—more accurately the Arab homeland-in effect means that foreign elements are being granted the right to interfere in the Arab economic relations and decide their fate, the statement points out. [passage omitted]

The proposed conference groups together states whose interests and goals conflict and whose governing values and principles differ. Moreover, the statement adds, the objectives of that conference pose added threats to pan-Arab security, in view of threats posed by the Israeli settlement designs, which still represent the focus of the racist Zionist state and are supported by a nuclear arsenal directed at the Arab nation. Other threats involved have to do with the American inclination to impose hegemony on this homeland's resources.

The statement adds that the Egyptian Government's participation in that conference would contradict with its earlier assertions that it would not consent to discuss the Middle Eastern project until Israel completes its withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and until a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict is established. None of this has happened, the statement notes.

The Labor Party strongly denounces all the concepts this conference stands for, the declared and the potential goals the conference planners seek to achieve, and the expected results. The party warns the Egyptian Government against participating in that suspicious conference. It also warns all the Arab states who have been and who might be invited to that conference against being lured into attending. It appeals to the Egyptian people in all walks of life to declare their rejection of that conference through all legal, peaceful methods. It appeals also to Arab people everywhere in the Arab homeland to reject the conference through suitable methods that agree with their individual circumstances.

It is high time for the Arab people to determine and declare their position with all available legal methods and to strongly protest the conspiracies being prepared and implemented on their land. It is high time for all the political and popular powers in Egypt and all Arab countries to cooperate and unite to foil the conspiracy and overcome the scheme, the statement says.

It adds that the Labor Party is determined to work to foil the objectives of the conference through cooperation with all the faithful Islamic, national, and pan-Arab powers to preserve what it views as the collective higher interest of the Egyptian people, an inseparable part of the Arab and Muslim nation. The party appeals to all these powers to close ranks to save the nation and its interests from the current deterioration as a result of local, regional, and global developments.

NPUG Rejects Conference

NC0810183994 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 5 Oct 94 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Secretariat of the National Progressive Unionists Grouping Party [NPUG] has resolutely rejected the Rabat conference scheduled to be held in the Moroccan capital on 30 October with the participation of 60 states, including Israel.

The secretariat issued a statement pointing out the risks involved in holding this conference before the achievement of a comprehensive political settlement. The secretariat has urged all the Arab organizations, parties, forces, and countries to boycott this conference and to immediately agree on a working program to counter the Middle East Market plan.

The secretariat reiterated its rejection of any attempt to normalize relations with Israel. It said that this normalization should be contingent on the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement that would safeguard all Arab rights.

The secretariat called for drawing up a working program to revive the Arab integration projects, promote the Arab order, boost its institutions led by the Arab League, and achieve Arab reconciliation.

'Terrorist' Killed in Shoot Out With Police

NC1010220794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—The security agencies today killed one of the fugitive terrorists who use sugarcane plantations in Markaz Abu Qurqas, al-Minya, as a hideout.

A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry said this evening that acting on information that the terrorist was hiding in the sugarcane plantations, the security forces went to the area but were surprised by several shots fired at them from the plantations. The forces returned fire and got control over the situation.

The source added that the security forces then combed the area and found the body of the terrorist named Mahmud 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Ali Mahmud who had a shotgun and two shells, one in the gun's chamber.

The source said the deceased belonged to terrorist groups in al-Minya and had been arrested several times. He is charged in criminal case No. 958/91, in the jurisdiction of Markaz Mallawi, al-Minya, concerning an attack on the village head and is accused of participation in recent terrorist acts in Markaz Mallawi.

The security forces are now conducting intense searches of the sugarcane plantations in al-Minya, Suhaj, Qina, and Asyut governorates for the terrorists who hide in those plantations.

One Killed in Police-Workers Clash

NC0710124394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—Security agencies today arrested 75 rioters at the Egyptian Company for Spinning and Weaving in Kafr al-Dawwar, who laid a concrete mass on the railway track between Cairo and Alexandria to block public transportation.

A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry said 29 rioters and 11 policemen were wounded and a citizen was killed when police units were forced to confront some workers and their families who tried to storm the company's gate to destroy its property in protest against the disciplinary action taken by the company's board of directors against some of the rioting workers.

The source said when a number of rioters at the company incited the workers to demonstrate and stone the security cars outside the company, the security forces intervened to maintain order and prevent any attempt to damage public property.

The source added that the security forces confronted the families of the arrested workers who tried to storm the company's gate to prevent them from carrying out this subversive act that harms public property.

He said that al-Buhayrah Security Directorate officials, detective agents, and Central Security forces went to the scene to defend public property and handle any further attempt to cause disturbances, where all assembled workers from the company headquarters and nearby areas [words indistinct].

[Words indistinct] and the company officials in Kafr al-Dawwar to confront anyone who tries to tamper with or harm the company's property because it belongs to the nation. He called for adherence to legitimacy and law and following legal procedures to achieve the demands of company workers.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Address at Al Wahat

LD0710143394 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2035 GMT 6 Oct 94

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at Al Wahat on 5 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] O sons of Al Wahat, we are meeting again because the situation that has been imposed on us means it is inevitable that we should always meet so that we can mobilize ourselves, charge our determination, and strengthen our will in order to confront arrogance and the disgraceful submission of the treacherous rulers who want to lead the Arab nation astray.

We want to address you today from the heart of Al Wahat, from the heart of the desert. We are addressing those who capitulate; we are addressing those who prostrate themselves. We are addressing the cowards who have lost their manhood and their honor and have sold the future of the Arab nation.

We address them from the free soil, from the strong and courageous people—the people who are heroes and masters. Let the submissive people, the creeping people, those who lick America's boots, and those who bow in front of the Jews hear the voice of the people, the voices of the Arab nation, and the voice of the free Arab people. Let these traitors—those who creep and lick America's boots and bow in front of the Jews—hear your voice from here, the voice of the people, the voice of the free Arab citizen.

O brothers, the traitors, the weak, those who tremble and abandon the future of the great Arab nation believed that there was no place for resistance and no life for the nation. We tell them that you have no life and no shame. We tell them that the Arab nation will triumph and will curse you and will throw you, the traitors, in the waste paper basket. [passage omitted]

O brothers, we are not like those ignorant people who are shortsighted and live so that their peoples should follow them even if they neglect the future of these peoples.

O brothers, we study history and benefit from its lessons, which give us provisions. These provisions give us strength from the past of this people and this nation and from our history, which is full of useful lessons.

Let them know, O brothers, that this place from which we are addressing them today and in which a free people live is happy and its morale is high. [passage omitted]

O brothers, the American columns do not scare us, nor do the fleets of America and the allies of America. We are the children of the martyrs. [passage omitted]

Methods of intimidation and humiliation do not work with us. If they have succeeded to the west, east, north, or south of Libya, they will not succeed in Libya. Libya is the steadfast citadel in the heart of the Arab homeland. The Libyan people prefer martyrdom to the last man and last woman in order for the banners to remain aloft, dignity to be respected, and the Arab nation to be protected. Brothers, Libya raises to the world its cry for jihad, the cry for martyrdom. Yes, this is not what Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi says; it is what the masses say, what the free citizen who is his own master says.

Brothers, we say to America: We welcome aggression, we welcome confrontation, we welcome the arrival of America because we are waiting for it. We are one of the main centers of resistance in the future. These oases—the region of Jufra and the line of the 29th parallel—have decided to be of the strategic lines of the coming resistance, brothers. We are preparing fighting fronts, resistance fronts;we are preparing ourselves neither for recognition, nor for abandonment, nor for surrender. Let those who lie down on their stomachs, let the submissive and those who have surrendered, know that we in free Libya are preparing ourselves for a long and historic resistance. We hold high the banners of resistance, the banners of Arab resistance, the banners of Islam and Jihad. [passage omitted] Yes, brothers, we say to them: The situation in Libya is completely different. We in Libya are bracing ourselves for a long battle, for an historic resistance. Brothers, we are preparing ourselves to obliterate disgrace, not to join the caravan of disgrace. They believe that Libya is also preparing itself to join the queue of those who have surrendered, the caravan of treason and abandonment. We say to them: Oh no, oh no, this is not the case here in Libya. Libya is preparing itself for resistance, fighting, defending the honor of the nation and the future of the Arab nation. America believes that threats, muscle-flexing, siege, and boycott will lead to bringing revolutionary Libya to its knees, to recognizing Israel—the so-called Israel. Brothers, America believes that this will lead to Libya's surrender, to Libya's submission. We say to them, however: Whatever your muscle-flexing, your threats, we too are capable of confrontation, of making threats. [passage omitted]

Brothers, we say to America that we welcome confrontation with it because a fight on Libyan soil would lead to the collapse of all the regimes that rely on America to protect their interests in North Africa, in all the Arab East, in all the Arab homeland, and in the Mediterranean. A fight will bring an end to the hireling regimes, a fight will make a revolution erupt in every spot of the Arab homeland.

Brothers, resisting America will be followed by more resistance and lead to revolutions in all the Arab homeland. The end of America will be in direct confrontation with the masses, with peoples, with the sovereign people. America's end, brothers, will be in confrontation, in an historic mistake on its part, in a confrontation with peoples, with the masses. Such will be the end of America. America, however, is now trying its chance and flexing its muscles with rulers, agents, tails, and traitors. It is trying its power with regular armies. We say to America: We will not be using aircraft and tanks, but the armed people will be the master of the battle, the hero, the army of the battle. When America comes, depots will be opened, and borders will be opened for all the resistance men of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

O brothers, they want to impose things, things that are unbearable to this nation. They want recognition of the so-called Israel. They want unconditional surrender. Has anything changed after 1948? Has anything changed after 1967? Nothing has changed.

The Palestinian people who were expelled from Acre, Jaffa, Haifa, and Tel Aviv are still expelled in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They live in camps. These camps that we hear about in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are the camps of the Palestinian people who were expelled from Haifa, Jaffa, and Acre. Have these people returned? Have the inhabitants of the camps, whose number is over a million, returned to their homes in Haifa, Jaffa and Tel Aviv? Never. Thus, what has changed after 1948? The people who were expelled from their land in 1967 are outside Palestine and outside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Have they returned? Never, millions left Palestine. Have they returned? Never. Have they recognized the Palestinian State? Never. Have we liberated Jerusalem? Never. Have we removed the offensive weapons of Israel, the nuclear missiles that have a range of 4,000 miles, which reach Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Yemen, Sudan, and Iraq? Nothing has changed.

Why should there be unconditional recognition? For no reason, apart from the fact that America has given orders, and its orders get implemented. We do not implement America's orders. Let America and its orders go to hell. America's orders do not work in Libya. They work with traitors and lackeys.

The futile people might say: How can Libya resist America? We have not said only that. We are all ready to perish, and we will not surrender to America. We will not recognize the so-called Israel. This is the decision. When we all perish, let America come to take the desert and Libya. I know you are with me. We will fight until the last drop of our blood and until the last one of us dies. We will not accept America's orders, and we will not surrender to America and will not recognize the so-called Israel.

America is a superpower and might crush us with its nuclear bombs and might defeat us; however, the important thing is that it is impossible for us to say yes to America. We will not surrender to America, and we will not accept the orders of America, which calls on us in a false manner to recognize the so-called Israel.

This Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is like (?Tshombe). It is treachery. If Palestine commits treachery, if the Palestinian leader commits treachery, can we say that the Palestinian problem has been solved? [passage omitted]

Did the Arabs have the right to say that the problem of Libya had been solved, that the problem of the Libyan people had been solved, and that we should recognize the Italian occupation of Libya? Not at all. This was just treachery. One of the leaders was a traitor. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian leader has committed treachery. Does this mean that the Palestinian problem has been solved? No! Has the homeless Palestinian people returned? No! Was Palestine liberated? No! Has Jerusalem returned to the world? No!

What did we used to do in 1948? Those who now recognize Israel have to recognize that the martyrs of 1948, the sons of the Arab nation, were not martyrs. They were a generation that had to recognize this, because such recognition would mean that the 1948 war was wrong and that the martyrs of 1948 were not martyrs. The martyrs of 1956 were not martyrs. [passage omitted]

Where is Jerusalem? It is occupied. Prayers are performed under the Israeli flag. Where are the words we were taught about Palestine? It is a disgrace followed by another disgrace, O brothers. They wormed their way into Palestine and called it Israel. Tomorrow they will occupy another country and will call it Israefil [combination of Israel and Arabic word for Palestine, Filistin]. We Arabs will recognize it. They will occupy another and call it Ezrael [Arabic for angel of death], and we will recognize it. These names are all the same—be it Israel, Israefil, Ezrael. If they occupy a country and name it .... [pauses] They will even change the names of Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, and Syria. [passage omitted]

How on earth can Palestine become Israel? Shame on you, Arabs, for betraying the Palestinian people and recognizing so-called Israel, while the Palestinian people are destitute around the world. This is a betrayal of all the Palestinian people, but the nation will take revenge.

The nation cannot accept that. It cannot accept a Jewish state in its midst, or a poisonous dagger in its heart, or a strange, nuclear state supported by the Christian, capitalist, imperialist West, which will remain our historical enemy till doomsday. The enmity between Arabs and Israel will remain until doomsday. The enmity between Islam and Jews and Christians will remain until doomsday. Anyone who believes that this enmity will end is naive, ignorant, trivial, and [word indistinct].

Why do we let down the Palestinian people? Why should we betray the Palestinian people whose cause has not yet been solved. Why should we let down the Syrian people whose lands are still occupied? Why recognize the enemy without putting down restrictions and conditions?

The reason—as I told you during the Fatih—is because the Arab nation has been defeated, and the victorious party lays down conditions on the vanquished without our hearing any justifications or their agreeing to give any.

The victorious party imposes his conditions on the defeated. The Arab nation was vanquished in 1967 when the Egyptian and Syrian Armies were defeated. Without those two armies, there is no resistance in the Arab nation on the governmental level. The masses have not yet entered the battle. The masses have not yet entered the battle. The masses are getting ready. The masses have not yet entered the battle. The masses are getting ready for the battle. O America, O Israelis, O agents, the masses have not yet entered the battle. The masses are preparing for the battle. [passage omitted]

The armed masses, such as the masses of Vietnam, have not yet joined the battle. The armed masses, such as the masses of Somalia, have not yet entered the battle. The masses that are fighting in the Balkan mountains today have not yet entered the battle.

They believe that the Arab nation has been defeated at the popular level. The Arab nation has been defeated on the official level. Governments, parties, presidents, kings, and sultans have been defeated as has their determination.

The nation and the citizen have not yet gone into battle. The soldier has been defeated. Governments have gone into battle and lost. Rulers have gone into battle and have surrendered because they had been seeking power and did not care about the future of the nation. The nation, however, has not yet gone into battle.

When the Vietnamese people went into battle, they inflicted the worst defeat on America with all its armies. The barefooted, hungry, and naked Somali tribes defeated America in front of the whole world, and America left dragging the tail of defeat and shame behind it.

What America is afraid of is for the people, the armed masses, the ordinary citizen, to go into battle. America, whatever its strength, will inevitably be defeated. America will inevitably be defeated on the ground when it confronts the masses, the barefooted and naked people and the ordinary armed citizens.

O brothers, we are preparing ourselves to inflict an historical defeat on America. When it comes, we, the masses, will be waiting for it, as will the fish in the Mediterranean Sea and the desert sands.

America, O brothers, is digging its grave with its own hands, and it brings forward the day of its defeat and end. It is opening fronts around the world today. These fronts will tire America. America wants to support all agents, all those who submit to it.

It has turned the world into (?power) areas and has transformed the world into big prisons surrounded by air, or by sea, or land. The Gulf is under siege; the Balkans are surrounded. Libya is under siege; so are Korea, Somalia, and Cuba. It wants to transform the world into besieged areas. This will speed up America's downfall. America is (?hurting) itself, exposing itself, and defeating itself by itself.

The disease that is killing America is within it: arrogance. Arrogant countries are killed from within. Arrogance will kill America. America will fall into a pothole, which will kill it. When it confronts a people like the Libyan people and believes that it will emerge victorious, the Libyan people will defeat it badly. That will be the end of America. [passage omitted]

America is now afraid of being defeated as it was in Vietnam. The same is true in Korea. It has received support from South Korea and wants to advance toward North Korea. The North Koreans, however, are an armed and formidable people. If America should go into battle with North Korea, they will defeat America, as did the Vietnamese people. Not all the Vietnamese people went into battle. It was only North Vietnam that defeated America.

North Vietnam was not an army—not tanks or planes. It was made up of poor, ordinary, barefoot citizens who fought America in swamps and jungles. They defeated planes, fleets, and missiles. Missiles cannot do anything when confronted with ordinary citizens. [passage omitted]

If America is forcing us to surrender and is threatening us, we will tell them to push us to battle, where we will emerge victorious. [passage omitted]

We would become more capable of long-term fighting on the day we lose cities, factories, and electricity. We would become ordinary citizens who would sleep anywhere, enter anywhere. What may bring humiliation to us is trade, ships, aircraft, ports, factories, and cities. These are instruments of impediment and humiliation. If they are destroyed and we lose hope in them, then we would become fully free of them. We would become fighters that America cannot bring into submission. [passage omitted]

The least the Arabs who recognize the enemy [Israel] can do is to demand collectively—since God has made this shame to be their destiny, struck fear into their hearts, and made them submit to America's orders—and say: If you want us to recognize the enemy, alright, we have heard America's orders. We are at your service. However, O America, O United Nations, O world, at least return the Palestinian people to their homeland. Dismantle the offensive weapons of the enemy, which are frightening us and can hit any Arab country. Hold free elections under the auspices of the United Nations. None of this happened. They are competing. This is incredible! Can you believe it brothers! Even Mauritania wants to open an embassy in Israel—even Mauritania!

Countries that have never fought a war—not were or will be asked to fight a war until doomsday, nor were even involved in the Palestinian cause or the battle of Palestine in the past or will be in the future—now want to recognize Israel. What makes a country that is not confronting Israel and is not one of the cordon states recognize Israel? This nation has been defeated. Arab rulers and official regimes have been defeated, finished. Nothing is left for us except mobilizing the Arab nation, preparing for the revolution, pouncing on the official regimes, and confronting America, which wants to humiliate the Arab nation and end its future. [passage omitted]

America is an expert in killing people, in killing the Somali and the Haitian peoples. The series of mass killing in Haiti has started as it did in Somalia. In Somalia, however, America was forced to stop the killing. America seeks the peoples one by one. All the peoples will be like the Haitian people. Even those whose rulers consider themselves as America's agents are not secure. America is coming to every country of the world one by one. The world should besiege, fight, and force America to succumb to the will of the international community, the world, and planet Earth. [passage omitted]

America intervened, as al-Sadat himself said, and said that al-Arish airport should be turned into an American base, as a bridgehead for American supplies. It was al-Sadat himself who recognized the enemy; he said so in his own voice time and time again. He said: American tanks with their cargoes and their fuel can land in al-Arish airport, as a bridgehead for American operations [words indistinct]. America entered the battle.

The Egyptian Army should have continued to develop its heroic victories over the Israeli Army on 6 October as far as Tel Aviv. However, America issued orders to halt the Egyptian Army. The Egyptian Army stopped, and America gave information about the third army to the Israelis. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian Army does not lack courage; nor does it lack psychological mobilization against Israel, because the Israelis were the archenemies of the Egyptian people even before Arab nationalism, the Arab nation, and before Palestine. The sons of Israel are the historic archenemy of the Egyptians. Egypt is the country that took account of containing Israeli power, prepared itself for this, and suffered to confront it, despite its recognition of the enemy. [passage omitted]

America decided to divide Saudi Arabia into three petty states, and the share of the Saudi family will be a limited emirate without oil. America is conspiring against Jordan and wants to establish the Palestinian state, not in Palestine but in Jordan, the capital of which is Amman. It wants to push out the Hashemite family from Amman to Mecca and the Hijaz, to recover their usurped property, according to America's plan. If the brothers in Saudi Arabia want to get acquainted with the plan, it exists. A number of Arab officials paid us a visit, and we showed them this plan. For your information—and America knows, naturally it is not a secret anymore—a high-ranking CIA man was recruited by Libyan intelligence in past years. He is known to America, naturally, and was sentenced to 90-years in prison in America. He is still alive. He was recruited by Libyan intelligence and came to Libya. He gave us very serious information that we conveyed to the Arabs. They were laughing then, and now the truth of that information has been established.

We told them that there was a conspiracy against Algeria and Egypt from the inside through a war of attrition. America pictures Egypt like butter, which will melt if heated. Thus, it must be heated from the inside. This was said to us by Nelson, a man from American intelligence, and this information—which he wrote with his own hands—still exists. We still have it. Regrettably, at one time, he was kidnapped by American intelligence and was taken to America, where he was sentenced to 90 years in prison.

He was then 60 years old. They sentenced him to 90 years in prison. He is still carrying out that 90-year sentence. It means that all his life, and the lives of four or five like him, will be spent in prison.

He said there was a conspiracy against Algeria and the recognition of Israel would be imposed. He said that America was plotting to return the Hashemite family to Saudi Arabia, to Mecca and Hijaz, and that the Saudis role will have ended for America and they would remain in a limited, oil-free emirate.

Iraq, he said, must be destroyed, and there are expectations that a revolution will take place in Iran. He said all that. He said Iraq must be hit through Iran. They hit out at Iran with Iraq, and then struck Iraq. Now Iran has emerged. Now they are thinking about who can stand in the face of Iran. Are they to bring Iraq back once again? Iraq could return once again. They could install an agent regime in Iraq and join it to Kuwait.

Our brothers in Kuwait think that the Americans truly care about Kuwait's independence and borders. When America sees that its interest lies in annexing Kuwait and Iraq, it will install a regime in Iraq and annex them, and to hell with any Arab who raises objections.

That is America's plot. It is making Arabs fight among themselves. It even wants to close borders between Tunisia and Libya. If it wants to, let it. As though our Arab brothers contributed to that. We are not afraid. They said Libya was busy with the Lockerbie issue, and we [words indistinct] and Libya is silent. No. Libya does not remain silent about the squandering of the future of the Arab nation. What is going on now is a serious thing. That future of the Arab nation deserves fighting for. That is more dangerous than the Italian invasion. We are not frightened by armadas. We have a great history. [passage omitted]

All the errors in the past will not be repeated. We are preparing ourselves for new battles against America and its allies. We are now more determined, more in numbers, rich and powerful. [passage omitted]

Now the enemy wants to bring all of us to our knees, to humiliate us. O world, even Israel wants to us to submit, to humiliate us. All the U.S. policy in the Arab world is aimed at inflicting shame on the Arab nation, to make the Arab nation submit to the Jews. America is the bitter enemy of the Arab nation. [passage omitted: all peoples hate America and will help you if you resist; the American people supported the Vietnamese people, now all peoples of the earth are with Libyans] The treasonous regimes do not have their peoples behind them. Yes, defiance from the heart of the Sahara, from Jalu, (?wolo), Sarrah, and Kufrah. [applause] We have decided that this spot will be one of the centers of strategic resistance in the future.

In conclusion, brothers, we welcome on your behalf an African revolutionary: General Paul, the leader of the Rwanda revolution, the Rwandan Patriotic Front. We welcome him, brothers. He has come from Rwanda carrying the greetings of the friendly Rwandan people, the support of the Rwanda people. The Rwandan people stand on your side and support you. He is one of the revolutionaries, an example of the revolutionaries who support you. Every day hundreds of revolutionaries support the Libyan people. The world revolutionary force is with you, the struggling peoples are on your side, God is on your side, brothers. We will never be defeated.

Minister Condemns Western, Iraqi Troop Build-Up

NC1110143294 Paris AFP in English 1351 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Oct 11 (AFP)—Libya Tuesday condemned the Western military build-up in the Gulf, but added it also opposed Iraq's deployment of troops near the Kuwaiti border.

"Libya is both opposed to the Iraqi troop movements towards Kuwait and to the massing of foreign forces in the Gulf, even if countries in the region agree with it," Libyan Information Minister Ahmad Ibrahim told AFP.

He said Libya was against "any Iraqi intervention in Kuwait," but doubted the Iraqi Army could "be a source of anxiety for Kuwait or the Western countries."

Ibrahim described the rushing of Western reinforcements to the Gulf as "neo-colonialism" and called on Arabs to "reject the presence of foreign troops on Arab soil."

The West was using "blackmail" to "get its hands on the riches of the region and grab billions (of dollars) deposited abroad by the Gulf states," he said.

Libya is under a UN embargo on air links and oil-related equipment aimed at forcing Tripoli to hand over suspects wanted in connection with the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988 in which 270 people died.

Mauritania

President Grants Amnesty for Fundamentalists

AB1110230094 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 2000 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Summary] "As I reported earlier, on behalf of the president of the Republic, Limam Ould Tagaddi, minister of culture and Islamic orientation this evening announced a general amnesty for the Islamic group" charged with conspiracy after some members of the group publicly confessed and repented. "They have repented and they will not be the object any legal proceedings. The minister of culture and Islamic orientation, in a radio and television statement this evening, first of all pointed out that Islam and its preservation have always been and will remain an important objective for the government, and this will be demonstrated in all aspects of national life. To this end, the minister recalled excerpts of the addresses made by President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, in which he noted the place that Islam has played and occupies in our country, as it is the state religion and the source of all legislation. He recalled the numerous and concrete measures taken by the state to encourage and propagate Islamic culture." "He stressed the need to mobilize all the citizens around His Excellency Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, who, since his advent to power," has always worked for national interest.

Further on Pardons

AB1110220094 Paris AFP in English 2149 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nouakchott, Oct 11 (AFP)—Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Taya has pardonned a group of 60 Moslem fundamentalists arrested last month on suspicion of belonging to "secret organizations", an official source said in Nouakchott Tuesday [11 October].

A radio station controlled by the Ministry of Religious Affairs said the decision to give them a presidential pardon followed their confessions and their solemn promise never again to commit so serious a crime.

On Saturday 10 of the 60 had acknowledged that they were members of "secret fundamentalist organizations" the aim of which was to seize power in Mauritania. They were reported to have belonged to two organizations, neither known in the Mauritanian capital, seeking to start an immediate holy war and to begin a long programme to seize power.

The ministry said the presidential pardon was in line with the magnanimity that Islam taught all Moslems and with a view to preserving social peace.

The government had also accused Mauritanian and foreign non-governmenal organisations, which it did not name, of serving as front operations for funamentalist groups to channel funds for "subversive activities."

Foreign Minister on Iraq-Kuwait Developments

LD0910214294 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Ahmed Salem Ould Lekhal, made a statement to the national press at noon today in which he touched upon our country's position on the current developments in the Arabian Gulf. The minister said that our country insisted on the security of the sisterly state of Kuwait and its territorial integrity. Here follows the text of the statement made by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation:

[Begin Lekhal recording] We heard the news about movements by the Iraqi army toward the Kuwaiti border. In this respect, I would like to stress our constant concern about international legitimacy. We also insist on the security of the sisterly state of Kuwait and its territorial integrity. I already affirmed this position during my recent visit to Kuwait. We hope that what is currently happening will result in guaranteeing stability, tranquillity and peace for all the states of the region. [end recording]

That was the text of the statement made at noon today to the national press by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Ahmed Salem Ould Lekhal.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Rejects Reconciliation With Opposition

AB1110221594 Paris AFP in French 2027 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 11 Oct (AFP) Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir today reaffirmed that there will be no reconciliation with those opposition parties dissolved following the coup that brought him to power in 1989.

"The doors are open to any Sudanese to participate in the government's national programs on condition that he presents himself as an individual and not as a member of a dissolved political party," General al-Bashir told journalists at the end of a three-day conference on dialogue between the religions. Former Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Madhi said yesterday that members of the

Sudanese Government had invited him to a dialogue to discuss an eventual reconciliation with General al-Bashir's Islamic regime.

Speaking on the negotiations with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army for a solution to the problem of the southern region, where a civil war has been raging since 1983, Gen al-Bashir stressed once again his opposition to the establishment of a secular state in Sudan. He also rejected the right of the people of southern Sudan—most of whom are animists and Christians—to self-determination.

Al-Bashir To Grant 'Extra' Authority to South

EA1110095594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has announced the establishment of the Sudanese Society for Inter-Religious Dialogue. He confirmed that it would be given support and full freedom and independence allowing it to establish its objectives and to contribute to dialogue.

Addressing the final session of the conference on inter-religious dialogue yesterday evening at the friendship hall in Khartoum, his excellency said that humanity today lives between two diametrically opposed poles: a religious system based on justice, equality, and tolerance and another materialistic one which calls for oppression, despotism, and wrong-doing.

He referred to the so-called new world order and its role in planting the seeds of corruption and deviation through the population conference recently held in Cairo. Lt-Gen al-Bashir stressed the freedom of citizenship, co-existence, and religious tolerance in the country and mutual respect between religious communities. He referred to the revolution's interest in the southern states and their development and said they would be granted extra jurisdiction and authority.

Lt.Gen. Bashir was presented with the recommendations of the conference which, as a whole, confirmed the value of inter-religious dialogue and the spreading of the spirit of understanding and love among religious people, as well as respect and guarantees for religious freedom and the practice of religious ceremonies, the building of places of worship, and the fostering of all rights of religious people. [passage omitted]

Minister on Normalization of Relations With Egypt

EA1110164594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has praised the Egyptian stance toward Sudan's cause in the UN General Assembly. During his meeting with Mr. 'Amr Musa, the Egyptian foreign minister, he said a number of proposals were put forward with the aim of resolving the outstanding problems between the two countries. He said the time had come for relations between Khartoum and Cairo to be normalized.

Speaking at the regular forum at the Foreign Ministry today, Abu-Salih reviewed the activities of Sudan's delegation to the UN General Assembly. He said the Islamic Conference Organization meeting which was held on the sidelines of the normal meetings, were informed of Sudan's stance, which rejects the violation of the Islamic shari'ah. [passage omitted]

Abu-Salih on Egypt, Regional Issues

MM0710152694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Oct 94 p6

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [Dirgham] Let us begin with Egyptian-Sudanese relations. Some signs seem to point to an improvement in these relations while other signs point to a continuation of the tension. What is the real state of these relations?

[Abu-Salih] We genuinely believe that the two meetings held in New York (between Abu-Salih and his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa) were important. We sat down and discussed all our differences. I believe that brother 'Amr Musa and I felt that everything should be done to preserve these relations, not just maintain low-level ties but endeavor to remove all obstacles and restore the special character of these relations.

[Dirgham] You have mentioned your meeting with the Egyptian foreign minister. He said after returning to Egypt that you agreed to resume the dialogue and begin to restore fraternal relations. What did you agree on?

[Abu-Salih] I submitted certain proposals to the Egyptian side to promote the right atmosphere for talking, restore trust, and make dialogue possible in pursuit of the objective. The proposals have now been submitted to Egypt and we agreed that the Sudanese and Egyptian ambassadors in New York should study them. We agreed to work for the restoration of normal relations. The Egyptian brothers also submitted proposals. Perhaps it can be agreed to concentrate on support for Sudan and its unity. I was pleased with what brother 'Amr Musa said in his speech on that matter. He took a strong stand against all the dangers threatening Sudan's unity. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Did you discuss the idea of cooperation between the security forces of the two countries with a view to containing the elements considered by the two countries to be subversive?

[Abu-Salih] We did not agree on anything but submitted various ideas and proposals to put the dialogue on a track that would lead to solutions. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] What did the two sides propose for the settlement of the dispute over the Hala'ib triangle?

[Abu-Salih] That matter is simple. We have submitted some ideas and we believe that when we sit down together all issues will be discussed because they are interlinked. We believe that only a few hours are needed to find the right framework for solving this if there is goodwill.

[Dirgham] Are you optimistic about finding a solution to the Hala'ib problem?

[Abu-Salih] That problem can be solved in a short time if there is goodwill.

[Dirgham] Goodwill on whose part?

[Abu-Salih] Everyone's. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Let us move from the improvement aspect to the tense aspect of relations. One recent sign of that has been the mutual deportation of diplomats. Are you at war?

[Abu-Salih] Under conditions of abnormal relations, anything could happen and we do not want that.

[Dirgham] Will Sudan retaliate for Egypt's deportation of Sudanese diplomats?

[Abu-Salih] No.

[Dirgham] You will not deport anyone?

[Abu-Salih] No.

[Dirgham] Is that part of the endeavor to demonstrate goodwill and provide evidence of the new approach?

[Abu-Salih] Yes.

[Dirgham] On the question of continuing tension, there has been some talk recently about fresh steps against the Egyptian presence in Sudan, perhaps against the Egyptian irrigation employees. Is that true?

[Abu-Salih] We will not target any Egyptian presence and we will apply the open-door policy toward our Egyptian brothers so that they can come to us. We are in the process of restoring normal relations. The door will then be open to our Egyptian brothers to come to Sudan and live and work there. We do not favor restrictions and we hope to be given the opportunity to continue this dialogue to solve the problem permanently. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Do you believe President Husni Mubarak's assertion that there will be no Egyptian military attack on Khartoum despite the calls made by some that Egypt should act the way the United States acted in Haiti?

[Abu-Salih] Those making such calls are, of course, talking nonsense. We know that Egypt will not fire a single shot on Sudan just as Sudan will not fire a single shot on Egypt. That is a certainty as far as we are concerned. That is why the Sudanese Army will not move to regain the Hala'ib territory. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] There has also been some some improvement in Algerian-Sudanese relations. Is that also part of the new line you have been talking about?

[Abu-Salih] That is not a new line. Regrettably, there was some misunderstanding of what has been going on in Sudan, and that misunderstanding led to the problems with the brothers in Algeria and Tunisia. We see this as a matter not of a change of policy but of a genuine knowledge that Sudan bears no ill intentions against anyone and that it works for an Arab region characterized by strong solidarity and cooperation, not the opposite. We are for the elimination of Arab differences. That is why we consider what has been accomplished with Algeria to be in line with Sudan's quest for normal relations with its brothers in Algeria and Tunisia. I believe that the meeting held between the Sudanese and Algerian presidents in Libya was fruitful. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] What effect has the Egyptian-Iranian rapprochement had on your relations with Iran?

[Abu-Salih] We have nothing to do with the Egyptian-Iranian rapprochement. We have nothing to do with the improvement of relations between one state and another or hostility between one state and another.

[Dirgham] What is the nature of your relations with Iran?

[Abu-Salih] They are normal relations, just like our relations with China, Indonesia, or any other country.

[Dirgham] What is the latest on the question of renewing the integration charter with Libya?

[Abu-Salih] We are making efforts to renew a number of agreements in an attempt to reactivate the mechanisms that would expedite implementation of the various programs agreed upon.

[Dirgham] Why do you want integration with Libya?

[Abu-Salih] We call for the integration of the entire Arab region.

[Dirgham] But you know that Libya's relations with the West are not good.

[Abu-Salih] That does not concern us. Libya is an Arab and African neighboring country. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Have you met with any Americans during your presence in New York?

[Abu-Salih] No.

[Dirgham] What is happening with the Americans at this stage?

[Abu-Salih] We have asked to meet and hold a dialogue with them on all issues with the aim of establishing normal relations but there seems to be no real willingness for serious dialogue. When we started discussing one point, the Americans suddenly announced that they were placing Sudan on the terrorism list, and the dialogue stopped. Despite that, (Madeleine) Albright came to Sudan and asked that we should start a new dialogue but we have not heard that the dialogue has been resumed.

[Dirgham] Have contacts stopped?

[Abu-Salih] There are contacts but we want a continuous dialogue on the issues with the aim of finding a solution, not just casual meetings.

[Dirgham] Are the Americans requesting certain measures as a condition for resumption of the dialogue at the level you want?

[Abu-Salih] We reject any conditional dialogue.

[Dirgham] The IMF nearly expelled Sudan from its membership but that has stopped. What is behind that?

[Abu-Salih] Sudan's financial policies.

[Dirgham] Why did you reject the initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and Drought [IGADD]?

[Abu-Salih] Who says that? The initiative is still alive.

[Dirgham] You had sought that initiative. If it is still alive, what happened to it?

[Abu-Salih] It has not achieved its objectives but it is still alive. That organization is responsible for the continuation of the dialogue between Sudan and the rebels.

[Dirgham] Is it true that you are displeased with some IGADD member states? There has been much talk about deterioration in relations with Eritrea, Uganda, Kenya, and perhaps Ethiopia.

[Abu-Salih] Our relations with Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Kenya are good. There may be some differences with Uganda over the way of achieving a solutions. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] On the question of Sudan's cooperation with France on the Carlos case, what did the French promise you? Did they promise not to respond to the U.S. attempts to table a draft resolution against Sudan at the Security Council?

[Abu-Salih] That matter was the result of cooperation between the security authorities in Sudan and France. We do not get paid a price for what we do. The Sudanese people are above such accusations. We do not make deals.

[Dirgham] Apart from the question of deals and apart from the question of Carlos, do you have any French promises to oppose and resist U.S. attempts to raise the Sudanese question at the Security Council?

[Abu-Salih] No. Any issue can be raised at the Security Council. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Let me ask you about some rumors and I hope you will put the matter in the right context. Is it true that France has promised to provide you with aerial photographs of the rebel areas?

[Abu-Salih] No. That has been claimed dozens of times. It is a media distortion.

[Dirgham] It has been claimed that France has promised to provide facilities for Sudan to enable the army to enter Zaire and Central Africa to encircle the rebels.

[Abu-Salih] No, no.

[Dirgham] What are your expectations regarding settlement of the problem of the south?

[Abu-Salih] We are proposing a peaceful solution. If the rebels respond, fine, otherwise we will build peace ourselves from within. We are all the time endeavoring to establish peace in Sudan.

[Dirgham] Is John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], getting stronger or weaker?

[Abu-Salih] He is finished. He is at his weakest.

[Dirgham] How is that?

[Abu-Salih] The Sudanese Army now controls all Sudanese territory in the south except a border strip between Sudan and Uganda. All that, we believe, is a result of the victories of the Sudanese Army supported by the popular defense forces. Garang now has a problem with supplies. We do not wish to talk now about the source of his supplies. The movement is at its weakest now. Every day large numbers of rebels return to the homeland, including officers and soldiers.

Inter-Arab Talks Urged in Wake of Iraqi Actions

EA1110101794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the speaker of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] and chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU], has called for the convocation of an urgent meeting at the level of an Arab summit or at the level of speakers of Arab parliaments to conduct a quiet and objective dialogue to formulate and crystallize at least a minimum of understanding. He stressed the importance of reconciliation and warding off the spectre of external intervention.

The TNA speaker said that the Arab reality has become more bitter than at any time before. He said this in an interview with the Jordanian newspaper AL-SABIL yesterday. In reply to a question on the reported Iraqi moves, Khalifah said that information indicated that the Iraqi Army was moving inside its territory and within its geographical borders in accordance with the reports and evidence of international observers.

This is legitimate action for any independent state enjoying sovereignty. The APU chairman stressed the need to solve Arab issues through dialogue. He expressed his concern and fear because of exploitation of the situation by the conspirators against the Arab nation to strike Arab military capabilities and plunder Arab wealth.

Leader Calls For Worldwide Anti-Secular Front

AB1010192594 Paris AFP in English 1801 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Oct 10 (AFP)—Sudanese Islamic leader Hassan Abdalla al-Turabi urged Monday [10 October] the creation of a broad front of religious believers to counter the "irreligious" value systems presently dominating the globe.

Turabi, secretary general of the Khartoum-based Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, said the major challenge facing believers worldwide was countering irreligious trends trying to impose themselves as international law.

Speaking at an inter-religious conference currently in session here, al-Turabi said the building of a religious front was based on the unity of heavenly faiths striving for happiness, security and stability.

He noted that the world was falling victim to a general movement aimed at distancing humanity from a religious vision of the universe and of life.

The present religious awakening was a reaction against this secularism which resulted in capitalist economic injustices and in moral corruption through the disintegration of the family and sexual perversions, al-Turabi added.

Kuwait

French Destroyer Arrives in Kuwait

LD1110135494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1325 GMT 11 Oct 94

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Oct (KUNA)—The French destroyer "Georges Leygues" arrived in Kuwait this afternoon as it moored in Kuwait's al-Shuwaykh harbor. The French destroyer carries on board 226 military men, several surface-to-surface missiles, and two helicopters.

U.S. Warships, Marines Arrive, Take Station

NC1110144494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 11 Oct (MENA)—Five U.S. naval vessels carrying some 6,000 troops, including 4,000 Marines and 2,000 sailors, arrived today in Kuwaiti regional waters. These are four landing craft and one escort ship. The ships took up positions and started to direct their guns at specific targets inside Iraqi territories.

Sources at the U.S. embassy in Kuwait have said that more warships and Marines will arrive in Kuwait in the next few days and that the aircraft carrier George Washington is expected to arrive this evening.

Report on Deployment of Patriot Missiles

LD1210112094 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. troops stationed Patriot air defense missiles in Kuwait today to help guard the country against any threat. Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Pinasco, commander of one of the Patriot missile batteries, said that the system of defensive missiles is already operational.

Bahraini Naval Force Arrives

LD1210114294 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Several ships belonging to the Bahraini naval force arrived in Kuwait this morning to support the Kuwaiti naval forces in confronting the military concentrations that the Iraqi regime has been amassing on the Kuwaiti international borders. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of Bahrain's defense force, said that the arrival of Bahraini ships in Kuwait reflects the constant stance of the amir, government, and people of Bahrain to stand beside sisterly Kuwait in good and bad times.

'Vanguard' of British Military Force Arrives

LD1210084494 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning 100 soldiers, members of the British Royal Navy special forces, arrived in the country. A British Ministry of Defense spokesman mentioned that this group is the vanguard of a force, including 1,000 soldiers from the special forces, which Britain has decided to send to the Gulf region to confront the Iraqi military concentration on the border with the State of Kuwait.

Bahraini Naval Vessels Arrive in Kuwait

JN1210091594 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 12 Oct (WAKH)—A number of Bahraini Naval Force vessels arrived in the sisterly State of Kuwait today as an expression of the Bahraini leadership's faith in the close ties of cooperation linking the brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council states under all circumstances and in all ordeals.

His Highness Shaykh Muhammad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, representative of the Bahraini Naval Force, and a number of ranking Kuwaiti Navy officers welcomed the vessels upon arrival. [passage omitted]

Advance British Unit Arrives in Kuwait

LD1210105194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1003 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City, 12 Oct (KUNA)—A diplomatic source at the British Embassy in Kuwait announced today the arrival of 145 soldiers who are part of a 900-strong battalion which is heading for Kuwait where allied troops continue to be deployed.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti news agency, the source added that six Tornado aircraft "are due to arrive in the Gulf", without specifying where these planes are based.

The British Defense Ministry announced the dispatch of a frigate carrying commandos of the British Army [as received] to support the international force in Kuwait.

Papers Say Saddam's Threats Linked to Iraqi Weakness

LD0810075794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0616 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 8 Oct (KUNA)—Kuwaiti papers today condemned the direct Iraqi threats to the state of Kuwait and stressed Kuwait's large capabilities to check any aggression as the situation in Kuwait today cannot be compared with that which existed on the eve of the treacherous Iraqi invasion on 2 August 1990.

In their editorials the papers were unanimous in saying that the Iraqi military movements toward the Kuwaiti border are aimed at containing the internal Iraqi weakness and malfunction in confronting an Iraqi [people's] grievance over the very bad situation created by the Baghdad regime.

Kuwait's AL-ANBA' said that by its recent threats and massing of troops the Iraqi regime aims at absorbing the internal discontent which has reached its zenith. [passage omitted]

For its part, AL-SIYASAH stressed in its editorial that the whole world does not fear Saddam Husayn and understands "the motives for his threats which are resurfacing once more at a time when he is only in possession of the capability to scream." It said that Saddam Husayn "is tantamount to a besieged cat imprisoned between four walls, behaving in a similar way to imprisoned cats inside which the feelings of fear and cowardice have exploded."

The newspaper went on to say that the game which Saddam Husayn is playing "though dangerous for Gulf security, the latter is fundamentally a well-fortified security which will not be affected by it, except that it is actually dangerous for the [Iraqi] regime itself."

The newspaper went on to say that "the Iraqi people have no hope of escaping from the hell of the regime other than by the elimination of the its ruling head, i.e. Saddam Husayn."

The newspaper concluded by saying that the world "is waiting for the 10th of the month to watch a new comedy among the comedies of defeat which this imprisoned cat in Baghdad has used to show us, and we hope that it will be his final end this time."

AL-QABAS said that the best way to confront the recent Iraqi threats is to adopt one single stance and make a comprehensive mobilization at all political, diplomatic, and media levels. It said that precaution is a must without any fear because if we begin to have fears and panic the Iraqi maneuver will realize some of its aims and open a door to pressure us, and this is something we do not want. [passage omitted]

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said that Saddam Husayn has ignored the facts of the international situation and the need to comply with all the UN resolutions because the latter represent an indivisible whole, and the first of this is the recognition of the state of Kuwait—as it exists and in its border as well as its sovereignty and independence. [passage omitted]

AL-WATAN said that Kuwait has fortified itself with enough security agreements with its allies—fraternal and friendly states—to deter any foolish or suicidal behavior by the rulers of Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Baghdad Radio Reports Growing Problems in Country

'Panic,' 'Fear' Prevail

JN0910111094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] For the second consecutive day, panic and fear have continued to prevail in Kuwait despite U.S. and British assurances and the movement to the region of an aircraft carrier and a British frigate, and in spite of several statements made by U.S. and British officials.

News reports from the Jordanian capital, Amman, have said that the first groups of Kuwaitis fleeing Kuwait arrived in Amman by plane and car today.

Kuwaitis have continued to stockpile food supplies, fuel, and bottled water.

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior has issued a statement aired on television, banning people from or the taking of photographs in the area north of Kuwait City. The Kuwaiti police were authorized to fire without warning on any person found there, according to the statement issued by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior.

'Chaotic,' 'Overcrowded' Markets

JN1010225294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports from Kuwait, the ruling regime there has not been able to reassure citizens and residents about the prevalence of security and stability in Kuwait. Last night citizens watched TV interviews with Robert Steele, the commander of the U.S. forces in Kuwait, on the preparations of his troops, the director general of the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY on the international position, and Kuwaiti citizens comments. The interviews were part of the attempts of the mass media of that regime to cover up the state of panic prevailing in Kuwait. However, these attempts were in vain. Kuwaiti television has shown pictures of chaotic and overcrowded markets and gas stations, and the deployment of tanks and personnel carriers near the no-man zone. Information attributes the anxiety among citizens and residents in Kuwait to the state of panic caused by news reports about the hostile stands of the United States and its allies toward the Iraqi troop movements, to the Kuwaiti citizens' realization of the plight of the Iraqis as result of the starvation under the continued blockade, and to the role of the ruling regime in Kuwait in all this .

Ambassadors to UN, France Discuss Events

LD0910060194

[FBIS Editorial Report] Kuwait KSC Television Network in Arabic at 0330 GMT on 9 October carries on its "Good Morning Kuwait" program a live interview via satellite with Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, Kuwaiti ambassador to the United Nations, and Dr. Tariq al-Ruzugui, Kuwaiti ambassador to France. The two ambassadors are interviewed by 'Adnan al-Jasir, KUNA journalist and researcher. Al-Jasir asks Muhammad Abu al-Hasan to provide a comparison between the atmospheres at the United Nations in August 1990 and now. Al-Hasan replies: "As regards the difference, the degree of support we have now is in fact the same as we enjoyed in August. However, there is much more reassurance and seriousness this time than in August. The reason behind this is that the Security Council is officially delegated to act and does not need to pass another resolution to allow the use of all possible means to deter the aggressor. Therefore, today's meeting, that is Saturday's meeting, was on the basis of the guarantee the Council gave to Kuwait's borders, whose demarcation was made official by the United Nations in the presence of the two concerned sides, namely Iraq and Kuwait. Consequently, the situation is very positive and constructive. The Security Council was not only defending Kuwait's security and borders, but it was also defending the Council's credibility and prerogatives."

'Adnan al-Jasir wonders about the significance of the absence of any reference to the concept of condemnation in the Security Council's statement issued yesterday. UN Ambassador Muhammad Abu al-Hasan makes the following comment: "In fact, condemnation is always for something that has been done. Should there be a violation of Kuwaiti sovereignty, the Security Council would condemn this violation. However, as long as the operation is within Iraqi geographical borders, the Council can only express its deep concern for what is happening inside Iraq—including the statement of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council which accuses the Security Council and the chairman of the special committee—and the threats to use violence and force. The Security Council is expressing concern about all these matters. Once Iraq moves to implementing these threats, then the Security Council will not only condemn these things, but it will put an end to any acts by using military force, to which the Council is allowed to resort."

The host of the program then asks Dr. Tariq al-Ruzugui, Kuwaiti ambassador to France, about France's stance vis-a-vis the developments on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. The ambassador recalls the French support as expressed by the French Foreign Ministry communique.

'Adnan al-Jasir then asks Muhammad Abu al-Hasan to comment on news items which say the Iraqi regime might send some of its elements in civilian clothes to the front. Al-Hasan says: "In expectation of this eventuality, we added a paragraph to deal with this concern one or two hours prior to issuing the statement. The secretary general entrusted the commander and the members of the observation group called UNIKOM with using all its prerogatives to monitor and follow up on all these civilians and anyone who would start a brawl or try to cross Kuwaiti borders. The forces will resort to using armed force out of their responsibility in preventing aggression on Kuwaiti borders. The Security Council members are aware of this eventuality, and there is a legal basis which was stressed today to the UNIKOM commander and the Bengali forces on the spot. As regards the prerogatives the Kuwaiti forces have to deter this kind of aggression, they cannot do anything within the five kilometers [as heard]. It is the responsibility of the UN forces who are entrusted with this."

Finally, Dr. Tariq al-Ruzugui speculates on the report which Ekeus is expected to hand over tomorrow to the Security Council. The ambassador says the report might register some progress in the issue of arms. Other issues will have to be linked to this issue, such as the POWs. The ambassador concludes by saying Europe in general and France in particular are siding with Kuwait and expressing support to it.

Ambassador: Saddam is 'Biggest Threat' to Region

MS1010102994 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 10 Oct 94 p 18

[Letter from Ambassador to the UK Khalid al-Duwaysan: "Time Has Arrived to Stop Saddam"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sir—Once again, crisis looms thanks to one despotic individual whose lust for power seemingly knows no bounds: Saddam Husayn.

We have argued consistently that despite protestations of a change of heart with reference to Kuwaiti sovereignty, Saddam represents the single biggest threat to stability in the region. Yet again, he vindicates the world's opinion of him through his own actions.

Saddam claims that he must relieve the suffering of his people. He could indeed do so. He could comply with the United Nations resolutions laid at his door.

He could avail himself of UN Resolutions 706 and 712 which allow Iraq to sell up to $1.6 billion worth of oil to purchase food and medicines.

This is a man who cannot afford to feed his people but who can fund costly military misadventures with impunity.

This is a man who wishes to relieve the hardship of his people but who has no compunction about using them as cannon fodder to further his own aims.

Saddam Husayn faces a Kuwait united behind its leader. We gratefully acknowledge, too, the unity of the international community on this issue, particularly our staunch allies such as the United Kingdom.

Saddam claims he wants the sanctions lifted. Yet, by his actions, he is ensuring the opposite. This is a disturbed man whose ambition continues to threaten the world.

The time has come for him to be stopped.

Minister Says Not To Fall for Iraqi 'Plot'

LD1110185294 Kuwait KSC Television in English 1700 GMT 11 Oct 94

[Interview with Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [al-Sabah] ...and lies by the Iraqi regime and their representatives around the world. We do not agree with that at all. The president of the United States made it very clear last night in the statements he made to the nation that there is no evidence whatsoever that the Iraqi troops are withdrawing from the borders between Kuwait and Iraq. On the contrary, we are seeing more massing of troops there, and they are not going nor they are coming south. So therefore we should not fall for the Iraqi plot here and ploy that we are used to. And we should continue what we are doing because the Iraqi regime cannot be trusted with anything, and I think the process we are now proceeding with is satisfactory for the protection and the security of Kuwait. So we should not take those statements seriously and we should just eliminate them.

[Correspondent] The entire world at the moment is contemplating whether the Iraqi regime will withdraw its troops from the borders or not. But even if the Iraqi troops withdraw, if the Iraqi regime withdraws its troops from the border for the time being, if the crisis diffuse and the threat is over? [sentence as heard]

[Al-Sabah] The threat will never be over as long as Saddam Husayn and his regime is in power. Again, as I said, if—that's a big if—if they do decide to withdraw their troops north because of the massing of allied forces in Kuwait to deter any aggression and the fear of a preemptive strike on the Iraqi troops, there is no guarantee they will (?not) come back next month and the month after. What we are saying, we need a new line in the sand so that no Iraqi ground forces could come across. We have a no-fly zone here, but we also need a new line in the sand so that no more Iraqi troops could come to pose threat. Until this problem is resolved with Iraq, until Iraq respects the United Nations Security Council, accepts the.... all the elements of the Security Council Resolutions 687, 833 and also recognize the border with Kuwait and release hostages, once we can get this over with and other issues to be resolved also with the Iraqi regime, then [and] only then we can decide on other measures to be taken. But for the meantime, we cannot be victims of Iraqi's games that they are playing with us now. Every time they bring their forces down the south, then we have to jump and mobilize our forces and again regard the whole country under threat and also call upon our friends, allies around the world to come. This is a very critical situation.

[Correspondent] The sanctions have been imposed now for almost four years and yet the Iraqi regime has refused to comply to the international will. You think that the international community should wait forever or should there be a deadline?

[Al-Sabah] I think the sanctions should continue until the Iraqi regime comes to their senses and accept the resolutions of the Security Council. I think they are harming their people, they are harming everyone in the region. The only people who are benefiting from this whole thing is the Iraqi regime. They have all the luxuries in life that exist, within the regime, and I believe that the deadline with regard to the issue, I think the deadline is for the removal force for the removal of their force in the south, which is important for them, to get them out of the area as far north as possible. And I think we have to either do it and find out how it could be done.

[Correspondent] How do you compare Kuwait's position now and in 1990?

[Al-Sabha] There's no comparison whatsoever. We are ready for any contingency plans here. We are fully deployed, we are in combat position all our forces. The presence, yesterday of the arrival of the U.S. forces in Kuwait, with the air force with our GCC [Guld Cooperation Council] friends, with our, U.S., the British and the French and other allied countries, we are fully ready and capable of taking the Iraqis on.

[Correspondent] Is there any message you would like to convey to the entire world and to the Iraqi regime in particular?

[Al-Sabah] I have no message for the Iraqi regime as I think they know my message always, they've heard is many, many times. But to the world, to our friends in the world, we say thank you.

UK's Hurd Arrives, Stresses Need To End 'Threats'

LD1210083294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0706 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 12 Oct (KUNA)—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd stressed here today the need to put an end to current and future threats posed to the region by the Iraqi regime.

Hurd made that statement after his arrival in the State of Kuwait to participate in an emergency meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council ministerial council, which is due to be held here today.

He told journalists that these are critical moments, and we should be sure of the elimination of the threats contrived by Saddam Husayn. Moreover, we should be prepared for whatever might happen in the future.

He then referred to press reports on the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces in southern Iraq and said "if this is true, it is due to the will of the State of Kuwait and its amir, and to the consolidation of its defensive forces, in addition to the quick solidarity demonstrated by its friends. We are proud always to be among these friends."

On his part, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, said: "Britain has always had similar stances and initiatives whenever a misfortune befalls this country."

He went on to say that this confirms that our relations with Britain are solid and strong.

Meets With Defense Minister

LD1210113794 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait's Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah met with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who arrived in the country earlier today. After the meeting, Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah told radio and TV correspondents that he and Douglas Hurd discussed the latest developments on Kuwait's northern border. He said that British foreign secretary reaffirmed his country's firm stand and its support for the State of Kuwait and its defense of territorial integrity. The British foreign secretary demanded that the Iraqi regime implement all the international resolutions pertaining to the war for the liberation of Kuwait, particularly those resolutions relating to recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty, the border demarcation, and the release of Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees from the prisons of the Iraqi regime.

Amir Receives Message From Clinton

LD1210103494 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning his highness the amir of the country received a message from His Excellency William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States of America, in connection with the developments in the situation in the region.

His highness, may God preserve him, also received a message this morning from his brother His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the sisterly state of Bahrain, delivered to His Highness by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister in the sisterly state of Bahrain, in connection with the current situation in the region.

French Envoy on Readiness To Provide Help

LD1210105794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0905 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 12 Oct (KUNA)—Charles Henri Daragon, French ambassador to Kuwait, today stressed that the arrival of the French destroyer Georges Leygues in the Gulf waters is considered a symbol and clear evidence of the depth of Kuwaiti-French relations.

Daragon said in an interview with KUNA: "I am happy, and I welcome the presence of the destroyer Georges Leygues which is indicative of France's desire to stand beside Kuwait during this critical period."

He stressed that Kuwait's security and stability is one of France's priorities. [passage omitted]

He went on to say: "We shall mobilize all the French military forces and send them to the region should there be a need for this." [passage omitted]

Ambassador to UN Comments on Meeting

LD1210020594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0100 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 12 Oct—Kuwait's permanent delegate to the United Nations, Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, met UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to brief him on the Kuwaiti viewpoint regarding the latest developments on the Kuwait-Iraq border in light of the Iraqi military threats.

Abu al-Hasan told KUNA that, during his meeting with Butrus-Ghali here last night, he discussed the precautionary measures taken by Kuwait to face up to the Iraqi provocations and threats to Kuwaits security and sovereignty.

He also said he conveyed to Butrus-Ghali Kuwait's appreciation for the stance he took last Monday when he expressed his deep concern over the Iraqi aggressive intentions against Kuwait. Butrus-Ghali called upon Iraq to recognize Kuwait immediately within the framework of UN Resolution No. 833.

Prime Minister Announces Formation of Committees

LD1010183494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1650 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 10 Oct (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, announced tonight the creation of a popular committee for deliberation and consultation on overall public views and proposals and the means to transform them into machineries of action to face the blatant Iraqi threats to the State of Kuwait.

The announcement was made after an immediate popular approval to a proposal made by Shaykh Sa'd during his meeting at al-Sha'b palace with heads of the administrations of national federations, trade unions, and associations.

Shaykh Sa'd believes that the popular committee should be under the chairmanship of Ahmad Khalid Musa'id al-Kulaye, the minister of social affairs and labour, and the membership of representatives of all Kuwaiti associations and beneficial societies which should meet regularly to discuss the aims for which it has been set up and crystalize the proposals and views it receives.

Reportage on Lebanese Prime Minister's Visit

Arrives With Foreign, Defense Ministers

LD1110163194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 11 Oct—Rafiq al-Hariri, prime minister of brotherly Republic of Lebanon, arrived in Kuwait at 1630 [1330 GMT] today on a brief visit. He is leading an important delegation which includes Foreign Minister Faris al-Buwayz; Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, and a number of senior Lebanese government officials.

The honorable guest was accorded an official welcome at Kuwait International Airport. Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, was at the forefront of those who welcomed al-Hariri. [passage omitted]

Received by Amir

LD1110174594 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At Bayan Palace at 1700 [1400 GMT] His Highness Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah received Rafiq al-Hariri, prime minister of fraternal Lebanon, who was accompanied by Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Mr. al-Hariri arrived in the country for a brief visit to reaffirm the support of the Lebanese Government and people for the people and the Government of Kuwaiti and to support any international move which bolsters the security and the stability of the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Prime Ministers Make Statements

LD1110223894 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Oct 94

[Report on news conference by Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri with unidentified correspondents at Kuwait International Airport on 11 October]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] An official ceremony was given at Kuwait International Airport for Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, was in the forefront of those who attended it. [passage omitted]

His Excellency the Lebanese prime minister made a statement upon arrival in which he said:

[Begin al-Hariri recording] First, here in Kuwait we feel as if we are in our country. Likewise, all brother Kuwaitis feel the same when they are in Lebanon. We heard the news, like everyone else, about the Iraqi movements toward the Kuwaiti borders and we decided to come here to consult with our brothers in Kuwait. We are supporting Kuwait as much as we can. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] Next His Highness the heir apparent and prime minister made the following statement and answered correspondents' questions:

[Begin recording] [al-Sabah] On this occasion I would like to express my happiness at the visit of my brother and my colleague His Excellency Rafiq al-Hariri. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How do you evaluate the situation now along the Kuwait-Iraqi borders?

[Al-Sabah] Everyone is following the development of the situation along the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders. We only want the Iraqi side to swiftly implement the resolutions of the UN Security Council, in particular Resolutions 687 and 833. If the Iraqi side is going to be stubborn and refuse to implement such resolutions, which were passed by the Security Council, the president who is ruling from Baghdad must shoulder the consequences of his stubbornness.

[Correspondent] Is it true that you said yesterday that Saddam Husayn would pay a price for his latest deeds sooner or later?

[Al-Sabah] I cannot tell you when. However, I have said he who starts an aggression will pay a price.

[Correspondent] Are you expecting a move toward resolving this crisis?

[Al-Sabah] We are following the development of the situation on the Kuwaiti-Israeli borders. It was the Iraqi side which gave the orders to its forces to mass along the Kuwaiti borders. The person responsible for giving such orders is responsible for ordering them to withdraw to the positions in which they were stationed before last Thursday.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, is it your opinion that the danger will no longer exist as soon as Iraq decides to withdraw its forces? Do you support additional sanctions against the Iraqi regime in Baghdad?

[Al-Sabah] Of course. Iraq is required now or in the future to implement all the Security Council resolutions. Those resolutions were adopted by an international organizations, that is, the Security Council. Therefore Iraq must implement all these resolutions without any further procrastination. Thank you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Amir Visits Defense Ministry, 'Advanced Positions'

LD1110182494 Kuwait KSC Television in English 1700 GMT 11 Oct 94

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Highness the Amir, the supreme commander of the army and the armed forces, visited at 0800 [0500 GMT] today the Ministry of Defense. His Highness was received upon arrival by the minister of defense, the army chief of staff, commanders of the different corps, and senior army officers. After the reception His Highness the Amir met with the ministry's senior officials, who briefed His Highness on the latest developments in the northern part of Kuwait. His Highness the Amir then visited the advanced positions of the armed forces in the north of the country.

During the tour the commander of the land forces briefed His Highness about the current situation in the area. His Highness then visited the outpost and listened to detailed explanations by the commander. His Highness the Amir spoke to the soldiers and said that the people of Kuwait have full confidence in their faithful sons who are defending the territories of the motherland and giving their lives for the protection of their people's peace and security.

Interior Ministry Forms Civil Defense Groups

LD1110185994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1754 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 11 Oct—The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry said today that it had taken all necessary measures and arrangements to ensure that the civil defense staff carries out its duties in full during the emergency conditions resulting from the Iraqi threat to the Kuwaiti borders.

Colonel Fahd al-Tarkit, head of the civil defense general administration, announced to journalists that specialized working groups and an operation room were formed to detect danger and provide help and aid and to organize measures taken by [words indistinct].

Petroleum Official on Strategic Oil Reserves

LD1110075094 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 0345 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Has the crisis fabricated by the Iraqi regime affected the marketing of Kuwaiti oil, and are there enough strategic oil reserves for an emergency situation? These kind of questions require the answers of an oil expert. Shaykh 'Ali Jabir al-'Ali al-Sabah, member delegate for marketing in the Kuwait Petroleum Company [KPC], is our guest and he is the best person who can talk to us about this issue. Good morning.

[Al-Sabah] Good morning.

[Announcer] The question which poses itself is: what is the extent of the impact of the recent events on the marketing of Kuwaiti oil?

[Al-Sabah] I would like to reassure the brother citizens and brother consumers in the world that the oil situation in Kuwait is very good. The crisis fabricated by the Iraqi regime and its crazy leadership has not affected us at all. Proof of this is that the oil prices rose just a little then went back to their normal level.

You have just asked whether the recent events have affected us in world markets. Thank God, non-Kuwaiti customer tankers are still coming to al-Ahmadi port, and are still carrying [oil]. There has been no delay or hesitation among the customers, bearing in mind that these tankers and their crews are not Kuwaiti.

We should not forget that we have a number of Kuwaiti tankers piloted by young Kuwaitis who are ready to give their lives should something like this [an invasion] happen. Moreover, we must not forget that we still have tankers flying American and British flags, which stresses that our oil exports will not be affected by the events in the north. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] What about the strategic reserves?

[Al-Sabah] As regards the strategic reserves, we have enough for one and a half months. We are fine. [passage omitted]

Government Condemns Ekeus' Report to UN

NC1210090794 Paris AFP in English 0848 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 12 (AFP)—Iraq on Wednesday [12 October] condemned the report presented to the Security Council by UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus, saying it ignored Baghdad's cooperation with the world body.

'Amir Muhammad Rashid, head of Iraq's military industrialisation organisation, said the report "deliberately ignored Iraq's cooperation and did not carry a single mention of Iraqi efforts."

The UN panel in charge of disarming on Monday said Baghdad had allowed it to put in place a provisional system for long-term weapons monitoring but made no recommendation for an easing of sanctions.

Official Links Kuwaiti Recognition, Embargo End

JN1210124894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Oct 94

[Report by Randah Habib in Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq today said that its recognition of Kuwait is fully linked with the lifting of the sanctions that have been imposed on it for more than four years. A high-ranking official in the Iraqi leadership said: Baghdad will define its stand vis-a-vis the recognition once the ordeal facing the Iraqi people has ended.

Iraqis are becoming more concerned as a result of the escalation in the U.S. stand and the continuous flow of forces to the region despite Iraq's withdrawal of its forces from al-Basrah. According to diplomatic sources, the Russian and Chinese military charges d'affaires headed for al-Basrah last night to verify the relocation of the Iraqi forces.

Last night, the Hamurabi Forces, affiliated with the Presidential Guard, continued their withdrawal. These forces used three trains from al-Basrah to Baghdad, as witnessed by reporters.

Al-Sahhaf Defends Position, Criticizes U.S.

JN1110200794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1733 GMT 11 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, in Baghdad, by Salah Salamah, in the studio, on 11 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salamah] We have on the line from Baghdad Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, who has with him in his Baghdad office our colleague Sa'd al-Mas'udi. Mr. Iraqi Foreign Minister: Your country yesterday stressed that it withdrew from the southern areas close to the Kuwaiti borders. Washington, however, still questions the truth about the withdrawal of the Iraqi military units deployed in al-Basrah area to the north. What is the truth about this question? What is the current situation in the Iraq-Kuwait border area?

[Al-Sahhaf] Brother Salah: The established facts are as follows: In accordance with the decision which our leadership in Iraq made yesterday, as of 1500 Baghdad local time [1200 GMT] today, the entire military force, over which the clamor was fabricated by the United States, together with their headquarters were moved to their rear positions. This means that their transfer was completed by 1500 Baghdad local time. Only two small brigades remain, and they are on their way to the rear. The operation for these two brigades will be completed in a short time, 24 hours at a maximum. Therefore, what the other side, I mean the U.S. side, is saying is untrue and unfounded. It has a specific objective. Its objective is certainly to distort facts to the world to continue to implement the goals of the U.S. policy and not [words indistinct]. This constitutes a distortion by the U.S. side. We today invited military attaches, I mention in particular the Russian and the Chinese military attaches, and they are on their way to the south to see with their own eyes the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops, which are deployed on their own soil and are conducting ordinary exercises.

[Salamah] Mr. Minister: Despite your announcement about the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from the southern area, the United States is still in a state of alert, if one can say so, on the military, diplomatic, political, and media levels against Iraq. Do you expect a certain U.S. escalation, particularly on the military field, against you in these hours?

[Al-Sahhaf] Everything that is going on now constitutes a fabricated U.S. escalation for motives not connected to the region's security or stability. They are political, economic, and military motives connected to the U.S. hegemony and their selfish and tendentious objectives. But if they wish to stage an aggression once again against Iraq, their position will be exposed even more. I have stated to you the facts as they are. There are certain parties—neutral parties—who are aware of the situation. The insistence on continuing to lie and fool the world because they are a tyrant superpower is a different subject that is unrelated to the facts which we are talking about.

[Salamah] Iraqi Foreign Minister.

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes, please.

[Salamah] Without any warning, you have massed large military forces on the border area. The world has been wondering about the objectives of that military movement. What prompted Iraq to do this?

[Al-Sahhaf] We have moved our forces within our territories, and we are not close to the border of any of our neighbors. It is ridiculous to make such an uproar over a country moving its forces within its own borders as part of its military exercises, while those who raised that uproar have come from places thousands of miles and kilometers away in order to hold military exercises, as they allege, near Iraq's border and its territorial waters; provoked Iraq by carrying out scores of military operations; and sent their warplanes to violate Iraq's airspace. Who is the provoker, then, and who is violating the UN Charter and the international law?

We are not required to give any account to any side when our military forces move for training purposes inside our homeland. So, why do they fabricate all this against Iraq? They do this because they have bad purposes, which are now exposed.

[Salamah] Your Excellency: Wasn't that movement related to Iraq's call for lifting the international blockade imposed on it four years ago?

[Al-Sahhaf] From the beginning, we demanded the lifting of the blockade because it was unfair. Even though Iraq has cooperated with the UN Security Council Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency since 1991, even though Iraq has implemented all the obligations imposed on it in accordance with Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution No. 687, and despite our concept of that resolution, we cooperated and implemented the resolution. The United States and its small agents in the region, particularly the Kuwaiti rulers, who mortgaged the fate of Kuwait and its people to the U.S. plan, are insisting on prolonging the blockade on Iraq. We have been demanding [an end to the blockade] by cooperating with the Security Council and the Special Commission. However, they made the uproar over Iraqi military exercises not because these exercises are part of the demands, but because they have exposed those who have other goals. In fact, there will be no security or stability in this region, in this part of the Arab homeland, or in the Gulf region without lifting the unjust blockade on Iraq. Those who believe there will be security and stability through U.S. tyranny will be mistaken, and those who believe they can maintain security and stability by starving the Iraqi people to death and denying them medicine are also mistaken. True stability and security cannot take place through U.S. belligerency. True stability and security can prevail by lifting the unjust blockade on Iraq. Everyone should live in peace and everyone should have his rights. This event which they fabricated has exposed their allegations that by killing Iraqis and besieging Iraq, they will achieve security and stability in the region.

[Salamah] Mr. Minister, you in Baghdad have been asserting that you have abided by all the UN Security Council resolution. Washington, in addition to Kuwait, say that you have not yet implemented the resolution demanding Iraqi recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and borders. What is Iraq's position on the recognition of Kuwait, which is considered, within the Security Council, to be the key to lifting the embargo on Iraq?

[Al-Sahhaf] In Resolution No. 686, which was issued after the cease-fire and following the 30-state aggression on Iraq, there is a clause asking Iraq to take legislative measures. Iraq implemented these legislative measures concerning Kuwait and informed the Security Council of its legislative measures in three letters from the foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq. Therefore, these allegations by the Americans and their agents, the Kuwaiti rulers, are a means of imposing new political conditions.

Nevertheless and as far back as March this year, the deputy prime minister, Dr. Tariq 'Aziz, said that if issues pertaining to Kuwait are raised, we are prepared to discuss them in depth to reach a result that protects the rights of all parties concerned.

[Salamah] Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, you held contacts with France, Russia, and China. Today you will receive two envoys from Russia. You said that discussions deal with the Kuwait issue and the international embargo on Iraq. Have you found any response from these three states to your demands of lifting the sanctions?

[Al-Sahhaf] We work not only with the three states that you have kindly mentioned, Mr. Salah. We are working with the vast majority—practically with all the UN Security Council member states. We have been and still are in constant contact to pursue the diplomatic and political work in accordance with the actual, documented facts regarding Iraq's cooperation with the Security Council, the Special Commission, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Therefore, we are in constant contact with these three states and the other states, including a great number of nonpermanent member states, in order to restore our rights and lift the unjust embargo on the Iraqi people as soon as possible.

[Salamah] Last question, Your Excellency, what is your evaluation in Baghdad of the Arab response to Iraqi demands for lifting the embargo and restoring solidarity to Arab ranks?

[Al-Sahhaf] We are certain that the sons of the Arab nation are all with us. The question of this ruler submitting to the will of the foreigner or that ruler fearing something will not be evaluated by me, if you allow me. We are in the right and we know that the sons of the Arab nation are with us.

[Salamah] Thank You, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, for this statement to Radio Monte Carlo.

[Al-Sahhaf] You are welcome, brother Salah.

Further on al-Sahhaf Remarks

JN1110231594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2117 GMT 11 Oct 94

[From "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY: In accordance with the decision taken yesterday, Monday, the entire military force, over which a clamor was fabricated by the U.S. side, together with their headquarters, were moved to rear positions by 1500 [1200 GMT] today, Tuesday. Only two brigades remain, and they are still moving to the rear. It is hoped that the move will be completed in no more than 24 hours.

He said: We emphasize this fact so that everything will be clear to the world community and so those with ill intentions will not persist in undermining diplomatic efforts.

Meanwhile, AFP reported that a sense of disappointment overwhelmed many officials in Kuwait following yesterday's announcement at the UN Security Council on Iraq's decision to move the Republican Guard units from southern Iraq to other positions. The Kuwaiti television and radio did not carry that report although it was transmitted by the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY.

In Washington, a senior U.S. State Department official welcomed Iraq's decision to move the Republican Guard units, which were conducting routine exercises in southern Iraq, to rear positions where they will complete their exercises. In a press statement in Washington, the U.S. official said: If what Iraq has announced is true, then this will be a positive step in the right direction.

U.S. diplomatic sources expressed satisfaction with the Iraqi decision. However, they ruled out the possibility that this decision was made as part of a deal with the United States to ease the sanctions imposed against Iraq.

At the U.S. Defense Department, the Pentagon, the reaction was different. The Cable News Network, CNN, correspondent reported that the Pentagon experts did not obtain any aerial photos to show that the Iraqi units moved to the rear. The plans to move U.S. forces to Kuwait will continue and remain unchanged.

U.S. President Clinton summoned his top advisers to a White House meeting after receiving reports that the Iraqi units were moved from southern Iraq to rear positions. The CNN White House correspondent said that if the U.S. Administration ascertains that the situation has changed in a positive way, then he expects the crisis to be over.

Madeleine Albright, the U.S. envoy to the United Nations, has said she will inform the UN Security Council of the developments. She said she thinks if such reports are true, then the UN Security Council members will appreciate the Iraqi step. The UN Security Council president, Britain's envoy Hannay, said that Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's envoy to the United Nations, had informed him of Iraq's decision to move its Republican Guard units to other positions where they can resume their exercises. Iraq has stressed its right to deploy its Armed Forces wherever it likes within its territory.

Following the Iraqi decision, oil prices on the New York Stock Exchange dropped 26 cents per barrel. Trading in stocks increased in comparison with the past few days.

The Israeli Army General Command announced that the current crisis in the Gulf does not pose a direct threat to Israel. The Israeli radio reported that the political officials, including the prime minister, are monitoring the situation closely and exchanging assessments in this regard with the United States. Israelis flocked to the centers disbursing gas masks in the various parts of occupied Palestine in anticipation of any new development.

Russia Urges 'Active' Efforts To Ease Tension

JN1110193594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1838 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Oct (INA)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has stated that his country is holding constant contacts with the Iraqi leadership. He said: We received from the Iraqi leadership assertions that there are no intentions to go beyond the framework of military exercises. They [the Iraqis] told us that the Iraqi forces are being withdrawn from the area south of al-Basrah.

Kozyrev added: We do not conceal the fact that we have an interest in both lifting the blockade on Iraq and providing possibilities for economic cooperation between Iraq and Russia.

In another development, the official spokesman of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement at a news conference today. He said Russia is convinced that there should be a continued search for political ways to end the crisis. The Russian side intends to continue active efforts to ease tension, and is holding constant contacts with the U.S., Kuwaiti, and other concerned governments, he noted.

Thus, and upon the instructions of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Igor Ivanov, Russian first deputy foreign minister, accompanied by Viktor Posuvalyuk, head of the Middle East and North Africa Department, will leave for Iraq today and later for Kuwait, the spokesman added.

INA has learned that the two Russian envoys will arrive in Baghdad early tomorrow, Wednesday, morning.

Russian Envoy Arrives in Baghdad

JN1210095594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0939 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—Igor Ivanov, envoy of the Russian leadership and first deputy foreign minister, arrived in Baghdad today for talks with Iraqi officials.

The Russian envoy is accompanied by Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East and North Africa Department.

In a news conference yesterday, the official spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry announced that Russian President Boris Yeltsin instructed Igor Ivanov and Viktor Posuvalyuk to visit Iraq and then Kuwait. The spokesman said the Russian side intends to continue its efforts to ease tension and that it is holding continuous contacts with the U.S. Administration, Kuwait, and the other concerned countries.

Radio: Christopher's Kuwait Visit Part of 'Campaign'

JN1210124094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Kuwait from Amman today as part of his current tour of a number of states in the Arab region. During his visit to Amman, Christopher held talks with Jordan's King Husayn on the settlement negotiations on the Syrian-Zionist track.

It is worth noting that Christopher's surprise visit to Kuwait was not a scheduled part of his current tour of the region. The visit comes within the framework of the fabricated campaign to coordinate stands against Iraq.

Former French Commander on U.S. 'Deception'

JN1110181294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 11 Oct (INA)—General (Jean Lacasse), former chief of staff of the French Armed Forces, has said the clamor created about the Iraqi forces' limited movement is a U.S. deception designed to achieve private objectives.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Paris, he explained that creating this huge clamor by the Americans seeks to embellish U.S. foreign policy which is facing sharp criticism from the people of the United States. He stressed that what Iraq wants is the lifting of the blockade imposed on it and an end to its people's suffering.

UN Official Cites 'Calm' in Demilitarized Zone

JN1110195694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1909 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Veselin Koftov, spokesman for the UN observers mission in Kuwait and Iraq, has said the situation is still calm in the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait today, Tuesday, afternoon.

Replying to questions posed by AFP, he added: We did not notice any military activity on the Iraqi side in this zone, which extends 10 km on the Iraqi side of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. He explained that his mission considers thousands of stateless people massing at a distance of less than 20 meters from the buffer zone [al-mintaqah al-'azilah] as civilians who do not pose a direct threat. However, he added: We are watching these people closely.

The spokesman indicated that these stateless people are still in their positions and have not encroached on the demilitarized zone, which is supervised by approximately 1,500 UN observers.

Dissident Radio on Saddam's Intentions, Developments

Regime's Military Motives Questioned

NC1010170594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1450 GMT 10 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] [passage indistinct] What are the regime's objectives, and what are the intentions behind these moves? How is the regime involved in the new relations between some official Arab regimes and the Zionist entity?

Some political observers have affirmed that the regime needs to flex its military muscles because the internal situation has deteriorated in such a tragic and frightening way. The Iraqi street scene is seething with tension and is ready for an uprising similar to the blessed Sha'ban uprising. Therefore, the regime needs a new military crisis to divert domestic attention to an event abroad. Hence, the regime has decided on these new military moves as an artificial respirator for the suffocating internal crisis. Others believe that the Saddamist regime is working in accordance with an international scenario to put pressure on Kuwait to jump on the bandwagon of the official Arab regimes that have exchanged legations with the Zionist regime and to push it to buy an arsenal from the Western states.

The West, which has kept Saddam alive, well realizes the importance of his presence as a bogey man to scare the Arab Gulf states into squandering their funds and resources on arms and seeking the support of the Western states in confronting his hostile moves and stands. Thus, the tyrant has proved that he is a tool in the hands of the arrogant forces to destroy our beloved Iraq and the region.

Attacks Said Launched on Iraqi Army

NC1110160694 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the latest report from our sources in the south, Islamic Resistance observation posts have monitored new military columns advancing from central Iraq to the south, using the Baghdad-al-Kut road, the al-Diwayaniyah-Asas-al-Budayr-al-Kufayr-al-'Amarah road, and the road leading to al-Nasiriyah.

The report says the Islamic Resistance forces have dealt several blows to the regime's columns between Asas and al-Budayr in al-Diwaniyah Governorate, inflicting on them huge losses of life and equipment. Iraqi tribes have also launched daring attacks on the regime's forces and its rear guard, thus showing their rejection of the regime and its deceitful methods of portraying them as supporters of the regime and as volunteers to fight on its side.

The tribes in central Euphrates have also acted, beginning to attack the regime's repressive services which have brought war and destruction to Iraq and the region.

'Tens of Thousands' Said To Desert Army

NC1110154594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Our sources say tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers have deserted their units after hearing the news of the new crisis fabricated by tyrant Saddam. A large number of these soldiers have sought refuge in the southern marshlands. Others have fled north to Iraqi Kurdistan.

Attempt Reportedly Made on Saddam's Life

NC1110153294 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing circles close to the regime, our sources say that some junior officers in the Iraqi Army were executed last week for an attempt to assassinate tyrant Saddam. Most of these officers were commanders of the Republican Guard and the operational units of the Iraq Army that were deployed in Baghdad and its suburbs.

Scores of other officers ranging from major to brigadier general were also executed a few days ago because of their expressed views of opposition to and discontent with the Iraqi troop movement toward the border with Kuwait. The regime's Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid personally supervised their execution.

Our sources also say that criminal 'Ali Hasan al-Majid has formed execution squads behind the military units dispatched to southern Iraq and near the border with Kuwait to hunt down deserters and execute them without trial.

'League of People With Rights' Activities Reported

Delegation Meets With Interior Minister

JN1210044994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of deportees who have been expelled by the Kuwaiti authorities from their homes in Kuwait have submitted a request to the interior minister to permit them to set up a branch in Iraq for the League of People with Rights [rabitat ashab al-haqq].

They also requested that they be allowed close to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border to project their cause before world public opinion so that they will then be allowed to return to Kuwait in order to regain their usurped rights.

The interior minister has approved the request of the deportees from Kuwait and allowed them to act in whatever manner they choose in order to serve their cause.

The following is the text of the request submitted by the deportees from Kuwait:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Greetings. On behalf of all of us, we the people with rights, to whom the Kuwaiti regime refers as stateless [bidun], express our profound thanks and appreciation for the hospitality accorded to us in our country Iraq, the country of all Arabs. We are of Iraqi origin, and we are proud of it, but we are Kuwaitis. We have interests and properties in Kuwait that have been seized by the Kuwaiti regime after we were expelled from Kuwait and our families and children were deprived of these properties and interests, despite the years of toil and hard work to build them. And now we are living a life of hardship and our families are split between Iraq and Kuwait.

We are not unhappy in our country Iraq, but we feel that it is our right to demand our country Kuwait [min haqqina al-mutalabah bi baladina al-kuwait]. Therefore, we beseech your excellency to allow us to play our role close to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border out of our desire to project our case before world public opinion so that we will then be allowed to return to Kuwait in order to regain our usurped rights.

Kindly accept our profound thanks and appreciation.

[Signed] 1. Shaykh Ahmad Nawwaf al-Hassan 2. 'Abd-al-Hakim Za'lan 3. Husayn Fahd al-'Anzi 4. Majid Husayn Fahd 5. Shaykh Ghadban Hazza' al-Shammari 6. Muwaffaq Muhammad Kamil al- Habib 7. Hayyal Hizam Washsha' 8. Shaykh Salim al-Dufayri 9. Al-Sabah Sattam Hazza' 10. Fahd Shahir Mujassi 11. 'Ali Ahmad 'Ali 12. Hilal Sakhr Mudar al-Zaja' al-Shammari 13. Ni'mat 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Sa'dun 14. Sabah Shahir al-Sa'dun 15. Fawzi Sa'dun Rashid 16. Tariq 'Ali Hasan 17. Shaykh Jum'ah Husayn 'Abd-al-Jayyashi 18. 'Abd-al-Rida Kazim 'Amir Zuwayd 19. Samir Muzhir Shahin 20. Tarish Husayn Salih 21. Munif 'Awwad Mut'ib 22. Yusuf 'Abd-al-Salam Mustafa al-Rifa'i 23. Falah Sha'ban Hunaytan al-Shammari 24. Ruwayd Shadhar Kayim al-Mad'umi 25. Tariq Shamakhi 'Abbas al-Jasim 26. Khalid Dahham Munajid 27. Muhammad Shindi 'Id 28. Hammadi Hadi Tu'mah 29. Sa'd Jakhyur Khulayf al-Badri 30. Shaykh Nayif Muhammad Tamir al-Ghanim 31. Shakir Mahmud al-Qabban

Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan has met with a delegation including a number of the deportees who submitted the request. The minister greeted those present and said: We have received your request to be allowed to exercise in the manner you choose your right which was usurped in your country Kuwait. In the face of such a subject, we say: Yes.

The minister added in this meeting, which was shown on Iraqi TV last night: We fully believe in and are convinced of your rights in your country and also your national and person rights with regard to what you left behind due to the pressure which was put on you in the previous period and your deprivation of your funds, properties, and stability, which is the most important thing. You have lost all that you had enjoyed in Kuwait.

The minister said: We are ready to help in whatever else you may request. As far as we are concerned, we are ready to facilitate all matters, and it is up to you to choose the method by which you want to reach your cherished aim.

The minister added: For some time now I have been asking myself: Why this silence over the rights of our brothers, their sufferings, and the way they have been expelled? We saw how they were thrown out across the border as if they were not human beings. Some of them came barefooted. They were expelled from their country despite all the service they rendered for many years. Some of those who are here and their sons were actually born there.

I asked myself this question, and now I am happy that you submitted this request. I am happy for you, because this makes me feel that there are still people who have not forgotten their rights. As the Arab saying goes: A demanded right is not lost. But when people cease demanding their rights, such rights are bound to die. And, when someone finds that the people with rights are not demanding their rights then he keeps silent, since the rightful owners themselves are silent.

The minister said: I believe that now that you have taken this step, you must raise your voice clearly in order to rally around you all good and honorable people in Iraq and the Arab nation, which is full of honorable people, and others in non-Arab states who uphold humane values.

The minister referred to the false solidarity which Western governments are showing to those who claim to have rights and wondered: Is it not better for those voices to rally with you so world public opinion and honorable people in the Arab homeland in particular can hear your voice and know your rights?

The minister added: We support what you choose to do in order to attain your aim and rights. We respected your choice when you came to your second country, Iraq. We offered what God enabled us to offer; namely, hospitality despite the difficult circumstances Iraq is going through. Despite these circumstances, we offered you what Iraq could offer its sons and brothers. We hope that we have not failed in our duty.

'League' To Set Up Radio, TV Stations

JN1210045594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-THAWRAH has learned that the League [of People with Rights] will have two stations for radio and television transmissions in the camp that will be set up during the sit-in period.

An official of the league's Information Committee has said that the transmission will cover the whole region.

AL-THAWRAH has also learned that it has been agreed with the Iraqi information authorities to allocate a time segment before Iraqi TV begins its normal daily transmission to enable the league to present its legitimate demands and rights since they are a people with a cause and rights.

Rallies Against Kuwaiti 'Regime' Held

JN1110120194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1023 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Basrah, 11 Oct (INA)—The sons of the Shummar, 'Anzah, al-Khawalid, al-Shurayfat, and al-Budur tribes in the al-Basrah Governorate have appealed to their cousins in Kuwait to raise their voices against the practices of the regime imposed on Kuwait—practices which have affected their brethren, the people with rights.

In rallies held today in the camp of the League of People with Rights [rabitat ashab al-haqq], they said that they will continue to confront the conspiracy of blockade and foil the intentions of the evil ones, who seek to undermine the steadfastness of the patient Iraqis. They also said they will mobilize all capabilities for the sake of proceeding toward inevitable victory and teach the enemies lessons in patience, steadfastness, and defiance under the leadership of the historic President leader Saddam Husayn.

They called on their cousins in Kuwait to support the League of People with Rights and defend the League's legitimate demands that the Kuwaitis should return to Kuwait, enjoy their rights, and restore the property stolen by the regime imposed on Kuwait.

'League' Head Stresses Group's Nationality

JN1110210694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Basrah, 11 Oct (INA)—Shaykh Nayif al-Ghanim, official spokesman for the League of People With Rights [rabitat ashab al-haqq], has stated that those present in the camp overlooking the demilitarized zone south of al-Basrah are Kuwaitis and have official documents, some of which bear the signatures of Kuwait's ruler and his ministers.

Al-Ghanim told INA that some of these documents and papers were issued by the Defense and Interior Ministries in Kuwait more than 40 years ago [sentence as received]. He added that many of the League members own property and land in Kuwait and that their brothers and relatives are still living there.

He said: If we were an Iraqi army, as claimed by the Kuwaiti interior minister and the Foreign Ministry's first under secretary, then why do we bear Kuwaiti documents confirming our participation, as Kuwaiti citizens, in military training courses in the United States, Britain, Germany, and other countries? We represented Kuwait in the Arab wars against the Zionist entity in Syria and Egypt, and some of us participated in Arab and foreign sports championships in the name of Kuwait.

Shaykh al-Ghanim wondered: Can the al-Sabah family deny the golden, silver, and bronze service medals bestowed on our brothers, sons, and grandfathers who devoted their life to the construction of Kuwait? He said: Is there any state in the world that grants its own citizens four categories of citizenship? This is practiced by the Jabir [amir of Kuwait] regime against Kuwait's people.

Concluding his statement, the head of the League of People With Rights called on the humanitarian organizations to end the suffering of approximately 250,000 Kuwaitis who were displaced from their homes, as well as to help them regain their rights and return home safely and peacefully.

'League' Members Hail Iraqis' Help

JN1110234294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1638 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)—Kuwaiti citizens, members of the League of People With Rights, [rabitat ashab al-haqq] have asserted adherence to their legitimate rights, which the ruling regime in Kuwait has usurped from them.

In statements to INA correspondents in Baghdad and the governorates, they urged the international and humanitarian organizations to help them regain their usurped rights from the rulers imposed on Kuwait.

They also expressed their pride in their Iraqi brothers, who share their food with them despite the unjust blockade imposed on them. [passage omitted]

Delegation Meets UNIKOM Officials

JN1210124494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0958 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Basrah, 12 Oct (INA)—A delegation from the League of People With Rights has met with representatives of UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observers Mission] in the camp set up south of al-Basrah. The delegation, led by Shaykh Nayif al-Ghanim, official spokesman of the league, presented to the UNIKOM representatives copies of the statements issued by the league, reiterating the Kuwaiti citizens' right to repatriation and to the restoration of their rights usurped by al-Sabah family. The delegation also called for the release of their relatives, who have been held in Kuwaiti prisons for more than three years.

The delegation is comprised of: Jazza' Farhan, captain in the [Kuwaiti] Army; Ghazi 'Abd-al-Karim, soldier; Turki Muhsin 'Atsan, sergeant in the Amir Guard and personal representative of the chief of staff of the [Kuwaiti] regime; Ramadan Yasir Ghanim, official in charge of radar in Kuwait; Sharif Rida Hasan, soldier; 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ubayd, corporal in the 15th Armored Brigade and member of the Peninsula Shield Forces; and Sa'ud 'Ubayd Minhani al-Jawarni, engineer in the Air Force. The delegation presented documents affirming that the members of the league were born in Kuwait and that members of their families are still there.

The delegation called for their cause to be conveyed to humanitarian organizations and the Human Rights Committee to exert pressure on the rulers of Kuwait to secure their return to their homeland and to restore their usurped rights.

Workers Voice Readiness To Fight 'Enemies'

JN0910173294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Oct (INA)—The Iraqi workers have renewed their firm stand against the conspiracies and schemes of both the United States and its allies. They also reiterated their readiness to break the unfair blockade.

In a massive rally held at the headquarters of the General Federation of Trade Unions, the Iraqi workers asserted that they are ready to fight the enemies in order to defend the homeland's honor and dignity as well as to break the unfair blockade through patience, creativity, and increasing the production.

The Iraqi workers pledged to President Saddam Husayn to continue the struggle under his historic leadership until safety, pride, dignity, and the great victory befitting the Iraqis are achieved.

Kurdistan Democratic Party Voices Support for Saddam

JN1110131294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The [pro-government] Kurdistan Democratic Party—leadership and members—has announced that it volunteers to carry out any mission or duty assigned to it under any circumstances and anywhere.

In a cable addressed to leader President Saddam Husayn, the party's Political Bureau emphasized that the revolutionary and brave steps taken by our wise leadership are the source of appreciation, pride, and commitment of the party's leadership and members, who are prepared to be soldiers with faith in God and the homeland.

In its cable, the party stressed that today it is more determined to respond to the call of right, the homeland, and great leader Saddam Husayn, and places all its potentials and capabilities toward confronting the imperialist U.S. challenges and agents, and in order to break the unjust siege imposed on the sons of our people.

'U.S.-Led Alliance of Evil,' Blockade Denounced

Article Says Iraq Wants Peace for All

JN0910093694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0718 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Oct (INA)—BABIL has said that Iraq has to use all available means to arrive at a just peace, and that those who believe that they can deal with Iraq from a superior position and that the Iraqi people are weak must quickly reconsider their calculations.

In an article written by Nuri Najm al-Marsumi, the paper adds that the Iraqi leadership has held fast and done all it can to overcome the effects of the economic blockade. It has done this through self-reliance and seeking, through the relationship with the UN Security Council and others, to arrive at positive results. It therefore has every right today to demand that others honor their commitments.

Questioning the intentions of the Americans, the British, and the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia toward the Iraqi people, the paper says: If those sides want to persist in harming a people who extended a hand of peace to all, they must understand that those people are capable of warding off attempts to harm them and of making such attempts boomerang against those who make them.

Deployment Said Linked to National Security

JN1010114494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said the reasons for the deployment of Iraqi troops, as well as their positions and moves, are all related to considerations of protecting the security of the Iraqi homeland in the midst of a hostile and conspiratorial neighborhood, from which ceaseless threats and subversive and aggressive activities are launched.

In an article written by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi under the headline "Iraq's Right and the United States' Moral Corruption," the paper says: Iraq has the right to move its troops up to 11 km from the demilitarized zone in accordance with Resolution 687, exactly as is the case with the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, and such an action does not constitute a violation or a threat to anyone's security or the region's stability.

The paper says the UN Security Council presidential statement is invalid and ridiculous because it based its preambles on information provided by a biased party, which is hostile to Iraq, and deliberately ignored the stand of UNIKOM [UN Iraq Kuwait Observers Mission].

The paper says: Those who expressed fabricated concern or voiced petty denunciations, including Arab rulers and others in world capitals, are deliberately ignoring the content of the so-called resolutions of international legitimacy, both in letter and spirit.

It adds: UN Security Council Resolution 687—the resolution on the official cease-fire in the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist-anti-Arab [shu'ubi] aggression against Iraq of the immortal Mother of Battles—was the worst and most unfair resolution in the history of the United Nations. That resolution stipulates in Section B, Paragraph 5, the formation of a UN observers mission to monitor Khawr 'Abdallah and a demilitarized zone, which is to be set up in accordance with the resolution and extends up to 10 km inside Iraq and 5 km inside Kuwait.

The paper says the panic, which made the Gulf Cooperation Council member states and the Damascus Declaration member states lose their mind, stems from the justness of the Iraqi position and the Iraqi leadership's wisdom and eagerness to protect its people and their basic food from the dwarfs, the saboteurs, and the agents who were involved in the crimes of the 30-state aggression and the systematic genocide by insisting on maintaining the unjust embargo through all dangerous means.

It adds: We had hoped that the chivalrous anger, displayed by certain rulers, be directed to liberate the three Arab islands—Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa—and to face the occupation of the Syrian Heights and Southern Lebanon by the Zionist invaders, who are backed by the spears of U.S. imperialism. This would have been more beneficial to Arabism and far better than placing Arab soldiers against the Iraqi soldiers, who watered with their pure blood the land of Palestine and every occupied inch of usurped Arab land.

The paper says: It is regrettable to see the brothers hastening to believe intelligence reports or photos circulated by the Pentagon, the CIA, and U.S. media. The Arab League, which has a permanent Iraqi representative, or the Arab governments, which have accredited Iraqi ambassadors, did not bother to ask questions or to study the intentions and objectives of the U.S. escalation.

AL-THAWRAH concludes its editorial by mentioning Verse Six, al-Hujurat Chapter of the Holy Koran, which states: "O ye who believe, if a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest ye harm people unwittingly, and afterwards become full of repentance for what ye have done."

'Evil Designs' of U.S., UK Condemned

JN1010101494 Baghdad INA in English 0915 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Baghdad, Oct.10, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Baghdad today said the Security Council should bear the moral and humanitarian responsibility and confirm its credibility through taking a clear decision satisfying Iraq on lifting the blockade without procrastination.

A newspaper editorial here today said the Council should also put an end to the game of the parallel lines in the north and the south which were imposed on Iraq away from the Council resolutions. [passage omitted]

As for the Iraqi English-language daily THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said that the U.S. is exercising genocide against Iraqis by insisting on the continuation of the unjust and unprecedented economic sanctions against the country.

U.S. and British officials have recently made it clear that the sanctions would remain in place regardless of Iraq's compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

This premeditated attitude of the U.S. and Britain falls within their evil designs against Iraq. The U.S. and Britain aim at bringing about a political change inside the country despite their knowledge that this is a hopeless approach.

The two countries are no long [as received] satisfied with the oppressive U.N. resolutions adopted against Iraq. They are using a more lethal weapon that is the economic sanctions to weaken Iraqi steadfastness and resistance.

The U.S. and Britain are now applying pressure on other nations to prevent these nations from supplying Iraq with food and medicines.

This policy of starving Iraqis to death has already claimed the lives of thousands of Iraqis especially the children, sick and the elderly.

The policy of the two countries not only infringe on Iraq's sovereignty but also defies the authority of the U.N. Charter and U.N. resolutions.

This premeditated policy of starvation against Iraqis by the U.S. and Britain cannot be tolerated any more.

It is the sacred rights of each nation to defend itself against all evil attempts to starve its people to death.

The Iraqi Government and people are following the developments on this question with great seriousness for the Iraqi Government cannot sit idly by in the face of the U.S., British and Kuwaiti's dollar diplomacy to win over bias attitudes of some other nations to prolong the suffering of Iraqis, the daily concluded.

U.S., UK 'Hostile Intentions' Seen

JN1010235194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2124 GMT 10 Oct 94

[Commentary by Dr. Muzaffar Mandub from the "Today's Events" program; date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Administration, along with its British ally, have dramatically escalated their hostile and misleading campaigns against Iraq on the pretext that it has massed its troops in the south. The hostile propaganda machine in Washington, London, and their agent capitals promoted such allegations—through the dissemination of fabricated and exaggerated information—to distort Iraq's position, which is based on abidance of UN resolutions. At the same time, those quarters have propagated the exaggerated reaction of Britain and the United States, elaborating on their blatant military moves to interfere in the affairs of the region, as if this intervention is an immediate reaction and not part of the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

Foreign news agencies reported that a U.S. aircraft carrier headed from the Adriatic to the Red Sea and that a British frigate headed for the Kuwaiti waters. From the speedy U.S. and British reaction, it can be noticed that their hostile intentions move them and draw their policy on Iraq. At the same time, they ignore the legitimate demand to lift the blockade.

Officials in Washington and London did not listen to the voice of peace that Iraq has raised on more than one occasion and at more than one international forum or to its fair call for the lifting of the economic embargo imposed on its people since it has honored its obligations toward UN resolutions.

However, British and U.S. politicians and their allies are inspired by the logic of aggression. Their fabricated and exposed talk about the Iraqi troop movements within national territory point out their premeditated aggressive intentions. For its part, Iraq has explained through an official spokesman that it is not bound to give details about the its units locations, movements, and their training and exercises plans. He who wants peace and is concerned about it is required—as Iraq has done—to pursue the path of peace, rather than the path of aggression and starving the steadfast Iraqi people to death and denying them medicine.

What is required now, more than ever before, is for Washington and London and those following their steps to give up methods of intimidation and the policy of deliberately harming Iraq and its people. They should comply with UN resolutions, to which Iraq has responded, and lift the comprehensive blockade immediately.

Paper Stresses Country's Regional Role

JN1110091094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0723 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)—AL-'IRAQ newspaper has emphasized that besieging Iraq, weakening it, and targeting its national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian role will not realize any success and will not contribute to reorganizing the affairs of the pro-U.S. regimes in the region.

In an article published today, the newspaper says: No one can ignore Iraq's status and regional role, and no one can conspire against this role.

It adds: Iraq, with its history, civilization, leadership and deep-rooted people, is firmly and strongly present, and is an active element of permanent stability and peace. Any disregard for this Iraqi reality may lead to instability and the collapse of the pillars on which the security of this sensitive region of the world are based.

The newspaper says: Through their all-out aggression during the major confrontation in the Mother of Battles, the evil ones wanted to confiscate the Iraqi will and strike at its cultural background that is based on the firm principled positions of the great people of Iraq.

The paper adds: The evil ones used all available methods, means, and covers to realize their evil ambitions, and used their unjust siege to continue the first chapter of aggression.

The paper emphasizes that Iraq overcame all the critical turning points and obstacles the United States placed in its way, and managed through its iron will to invoke additional resources through which it challenged the enemies and aborted their miserable wagers, and proved the error of calculations that ignore the will of dynamic peoples.

The newspaper says: The U.S.-led alliance of evil has resorted to deception based on the belief that conspiring against Iraq, confiscating its right to live, and besieging its people will lead to stability in the region.

It adds: The horror felt by the pro-U.S. agent regimes in the region, and the clamor raised over moving some of our military units within our national borders provide additional evidence that lifting the siege on Iraq, stopping the plots against it, and totally abandoning the sick dreams entrenched in some of the empty minds is what ensures security and stability.

It says: The U.S. plotting, with the participation of its agents, has gone beyond all limits and expectations. It is natural that our people and leadership take the necessary historic step that halts this blatant injustice and moral collapse led by the U.S. Administration under the cover of the Security Council.

Concluding, the newspaper emphasizes that our deep-rooted dynamic people are able to shoulder the responsibility of preserving dignity, existence, and principles.

U.S. Accused of Escalating Situation

JN1210130594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2135 GMT 11 Oct 94

[Commentary from the "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] If the suffering of the Iraqi people due to the unfair blockade does not deserve the Iraqi leadership's attention and efforts to find a cure and deliverance, and if this suffering does not deserve any form of protest, objection, or criticism, then what is it that deserves such attention? Who is supposed to set the priorities of the Iraqi leadership? Who is supposed to specify the leadership powers? Would a leadership be a true leadership if it does not set its own conditions, serve the people, bear the whole responsibility, and achieve historic advancement for people by not missing a historic opportunity?

As manifested in the blunt escalation, which is based on allegations of Iraqi practices, movements, and positions, the American logic does not even acknowledge the right of Iraqis to live nor does it acknowledge the right of the Iraqi leadership to safeguard this divine right—the right to life—although these practices and positions are purely an Iraqi affair that concern the Iraqi leadership and people.

The appeal by a Saudi minister to it [the United States] to invade Iraq again; the Saudi and Kuwaiti efforts to prevent any success in Iraq; the use of bribery and temptation to perpetuate Iraqi bleeding; the U.S. violations and provocations through hundreds of aerial sorties; the U.S. joint exercises close to the Iraqi borders; and the U.S. objection to a trade transaction similar to ones made a year ago—to the United States all these things are normal and should be carried out!

Undoubtedly, an additional U.S. motive is that Iraq, after all this, has remained steadfast, reached a decision, and worked out its own response and way toward advancement. Coupled with this is the fact that the positions of many influential states in the world have changed.

The question is: Will the United States let itself be exposed by Iraq, showing its cards and real power, which can be confronted? Iraq has remained steadfast, and all the pretexts have fallen, and the Iraqi demand is now as clear as hunger itself. Therefore, the United States has escalated and continues to escalate the situation. It is the United States' decision to let starvation do what the aggression could not do. Iraq has rejected and will keep rejecting this.

U.S. Said 'Combative' Despite Pullout

JN1210082594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0723 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—BABIL newspaper has emphasized that the United States, by its continued insistence on escalating a crisis in the relationship between Iraq and the Special Commission, is implementing its belligerent designs against Iraq.

In an article by political writer Taha al-Basri, the newspaper added that the comprehensive siege, under direct pressure by the United States, is now targeting food and medicine, which the Security Council resolutions excluded from the measures it adopted. This is in spite of our conviction that all of these measures were illegitimate from the very beginning and have no justification since Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations, it said.

The newspaper said the design demonstrated by the policy of continuous escalation of the crisis by U.S. officials is clear evidence that the United States is determined to starve the Iraqi people and continue the destruction of the Iraqi infrastructure, regardless of how committed Iraq is to the Security Council resolutions or how positive its relationship with the Security Council and the Special Commission is.

The newspaper added that what has exposed the combative U.S. position is the continuation of the same policy even after Iraq, represented by the foreign minister, declared its decision to move the units that the United States has claimed are being concentrated near Kuwait to other positions. In spite of this, the United States has continued to concentrate its forces and prepare its war machine in Arab waters.

Regime Said Not 'Beating the Drums of War'

JN1210092594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0752 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—AL-'IRAQ newspaper has emphasized that Iraq has been, and is still, willing to draw the attention of Arabs, Muslims, and the free people of the world to the ordeal of its people, and that it is not beating the drums of war.

In its editorial today, entitled "What Is Behind This Blatant U.S. Aggressiveness?" the newspaper urged the Arab League and all good people to play a suitable role to clear the atmosphere and to work for easing the siege imposed on the Iraqi people.

It said the Security Council should do justice to Iraq for once and ease the siege imposed on it, and then it will see that this country follows only the option of peace.

AL-'IRAQ posed the question: What do the rulers of Kuwait and the Gulf regimes expect from Iraq while it is watching its children die as a result of the scarcity of food and medicine?

It added that the U.S. insistence on continuing the war of annihilation and starvation against the great people of Iraq is one of several examples of the deterioration in standards and measurements.

It said the latest foolish U.S. behavior seems to be in line with the United States' ideas for the so-called new world order, whether by threatening to use military force as the sole means for implementing its aggressive designs against peoples, or by the deliberate insistence on ignoring the laws and norms that organize relations between world countries on the basis of joint understanding and dialogue.

AL-'IRAQ summed up its editorial by saying: Right, fairness, and justice require the confrontation of U.S. policy to prevent it from becoming the dominant approach in today's world.

Cooperation With UN Said Ignored

JN1210111094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has said that although Iraq has made great strides in its positive cooperation with the Security Council, the United States and a minority of others in the Security Council, have deliberately escalated hostility with the aim of prolonging the siege imposed on Iraq.

The newspaper, the mouthpiece or the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said in an analysis today that Washington is deliberately escalating the situation again and again without any justification. It said the United States continues to spread lies and fabrications in the clamor raised about the presence of Iraqi units to the south of al-Basrah as a pretext to continue its aggressive inclinations and its tendentious policy. It has also cast doubts on the credibility of Iraq and its decision to move its military units to other rear positions in order to complete their planned exercises. The U.S. aim is to provide a cover for its continuing escalation of the situation in a muscle-flexing display.

It added that it has become even clearer to those who are following the moves of the current crisis that the United States is ignoring the fact that Iraq has responded to the Security Council resolutions and cooperated with the Special Commission. It also ignores the positive achievements and results of this cooperation. Washington has designed its positions and practices towards prolonging the siege regardless of what Iraq offers and what is realized on the path of implementing the Security Council resolutions. Furthermore, it continues to employ intensive pressures to prevent the flow of basic food and medicine to Iraq.

Concluding its analysis, the newspaper said Washington should know that security and stability in the region will not be realized with the language of threats and fleets or by continuing the brutal siege on our people. It can be realized only through security and stability realized through understanding and by showing a sincere desire and substantial steps toward lifting the siege.

Radio: Country Does Not Fear 'Consequences'

JN0810221194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1918 GMT 8 Oct 94

[From the "Spotlight on the News" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The official spokesman's statement following the joint meeting of the leadership of the revolution and party has been crystal clear. The statement expresses the position of the whole people.

Over the past four years, Iraq has been exposed to injustice which has never been experienced by any nation or country throughout the long human history. Over the past four years, the leadership resorted to the highest degrees of patience, wisdom, and self-restraint for one single reason; namely, to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and stop the massacre of unjust blockade.

Following the chapters of military aggression and treachery, the plot against Iraq took another form. It sought to prolong the blockade and destroy every scientific and practical capability possessed by Iraq to the extent that Zionist sources stated a few days ago that the blockade should continue on Iraq because it still has 1,500 scientists. Those scientists were supposed to be killed or handed over to enemies.

They were not satisfied with killing the Iraqis through starvation and deprivation throughout this period. They believe that a little bit of wheat and rice is the price of our freedom, dignity, and future. This is rejected by all Iraqis. It has become clear for all that the objective of the Special Commission, represented by its chairman Rolf Ekeus, is not to implement international resolutions, but to strangle Iraq slowly after humiliating its people, bargaining with them over their future and freedom, and depriving them of all means of living.

So far, victims of the blockade have reached 1 million. Iraq dealt with the games of the Special Commission, its chairman, and the inspection teams with extreme patience and responded to unjust and [word indistinct] requests which are full of violations and aggression, hoping that the suffering of the people will end. Instead of meeting Iraq's positive steps with similar steps, the United Nations made more requests and conditions outside the framework of the Security Council resolutions. Thus, every Iraqi became aware that Ekeus is part of a plot supported by the United States and the rulers of Kuwait to take revenge on Iraq—the homeland, people, and civilization—and to completely crush it.

Instead of improving the reputation of evil America, the enemy of people and humanity; and instead of stopping the downfall of its economy, which is threatened with imminent bankruptcy, the (?failing) U.S. Administration continues with its falsehood, challenging the entire world. The world believes that the blockade has become an aggressive, unjust act which is not justified.

The traitors from the al-Sabah dynasty have not learned from the lessons of the past. They insisted on betraying and harming the nation. They are the first to call for prolonging the blockade and destroying Iraq.

If we have to say something now, we would say that Iraq, as everyone knows, is not one who bargains over its honor, future, and the fate of its sons. The people of Iraq have all right to take any measures. The one who seeks God's satisfaction, after all the injustice done to him, does not fear the consequences.

And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

Hamas Announces Kidnapping of IDF Soldier

Issues Ultimatum

TA1110184694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Oct 94

[Beni Liss report over video]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] announced this evening that it has captured IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier Nahshon Wachsman. For his release, Hamas is demanding the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and other Hamas prisoners in Israeli prisons. Israel has contacted the Palestinian police and the International Red Cross. Our correspondent Beni Liss reports:

[Begin Liss recording] [passage omitted] A short while ago, the Mabat news desk received this videotape, filmed by the Hamas military arm, 'Izz-al-Din al- Qassam. The tape shows the soldier's weapon and his ID. Hamas presented an ultimatum to the Israeli Government.

[Unidentified and veiled Hamas activist in Arabic] [Koranic verse omitted] Military communique issued by the martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam battalions:

The martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam battalions announce their responsibility for kidnapping the Israeli soldier Nahshon Mordekhay Wachsman who holds identity card No. 03228629. He is alive and well and is being treated as a prisoner according to the rules of Islam. In return, we demand the following from the Israeli Government:

First, the immediate releases of: Ahmad Yasin, leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas; Shaykh Salah Shihadah; Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd; and Shaykh Mustafa al-Dirani.

Second, the release of all detainees of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam battalions.

Third, the release of 50 Hamas long-term prisoners, 25 Islamic Jihad prisoners, 50 long-term Fatah prisoners, 20 prisoners from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine of George Habash, 10 Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine prisoners, and 20 Hizballah prisoners.

[Liss] Hamas men showed a REUTER correspondent in Gaza another videotape in which Nahshon Wachsman is interviewed in uniform. It is not known when this tape was made. Hamas demands $15,000 for it.

Was Nahshon abducted by force? Is this another case in which terrorists dressed as settlers operate as a squad, and soldiers unknowingly hitch rides with them? There is no doubt that the terrorists have upgraded their abduction methods and are more and more daring. [end recording]

Rabin Calls 'Arafat, Cabinet Meeting

NC1110214794 Paris AFP in English 2113 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Oct 11 (AFP)—Israel sealed off the autonomous Gaza Strip Tuesday and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin called an emergency cabinet meeting after the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said it had kidnapped an Israeli soldier.

In a video recording broadcast on Israeli state television a Hamas militant, his face covered by a headscarf, displayed the soldier's M-16 automatic rifle and identity card.

Earlier a Hamas representative in the Gaza Strip said the Moslem fundamentalist group's armed wing 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam had kidnapped 19-year-old Nachshon Waksman from Jerusalem, who went missing Sunday.

Rabin called an emergency cabinet session to decide a course of action Wednesday after meeting with Chief-of-Staff Ehud Barak and other top security officials.

Israel also decided to seal off the Gaza Strip until further notice, preventing Palestinian workers from entering the Jewish state, military sources said.

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat pledged to "do everything possible" to find the soldier, his special aide Ahmad al-Tibi said.

But Rabin warned that 'Arafat bore responsibility for the soldier's fate.

"You are fully responsible for the soldier's life and for what happens inside the autonomous area," Rabin told 'Arafat by telephone.

"Any delay in releasing him will have serious repercussions for the future of the peace process between Israel and the PLO, the implementation of accords signed by us and our relations."

Palestinian sources said later 'Arafat telephoned the soldier's family and assured the relatives that he would do all he could to ensure he was returned safe and sound.

Israeli radio said the soldier had disappeared after hitch-hiking near Tel Aviv.

Israel asked the Palestinian self-rule authority in Gaza and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to help trace him.

" 'Arafat is treating this incident with the utmost seriousness," said al-Tibi. "He will do everything possible to ensure it comes to a peaceful end."

Al-Tibi urged the soldier's kidnappers "not to kill him, because life is of supreme value under Islam and the soldier's life is dear to his parents."

The kidnapping of a border guard in December 1992 by Hamas led Rabin to expel 415 fundamentalist militants to south Lebanon.

The militant who appeared on Israeli television said the kidnapping was retaliation for the killing of two Hamas militants by Israeli border police in west Jerusalem Sunday. They were shot dead minutes after opening fire indiscriminately in the street, killing two people and wounding 13.

The Hamas militant said the Israeli soldier was "alive and Hamas is treating him as Islam treats its prisoners."

"If the (Israeli) government does not respect our ultimatum it will bear responsibility for the soldier's death."

Hamas demanded the release by 9:00 p.m. (1900 GMT) Friday of its founder, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who is serving a life sentence.

The movement also called for the release of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam commander Salah Shihadah, and two leaders of the Iranian-backed Hizballah—Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and Mustafa al-Dirani—both kidnapped by Israel in south Lebanon.

In addition, Hamas said it wanted the release of all the armed wing's militants held by Israel, along with that of 50 other Hamas militants, 25 belonging to Islamic Jihad, 50 members of the mainstream PLO faction Fatah, 50 members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and 10 members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Hamas is violently opposed to the PLO-Israeli autonomy deal which led to the launch of limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May.

Cabinet Holds 'Arafat Responsible

TA1210092794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The special cabinet session convened to discuss the abduction of soldier Nahshon Wachsman ended a short while ago. The ministers were briefed about the situation by security sources, the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] top echelon, and the Shin Bet. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports that the ministers were told that, contrary to the Palestinian Authority's [PA] allegations that the soldier is not in the Gaza Strip, the soldier is in Gaza and is alive.

Emerging from the cabinet session, Minister Amnon Rubinstein said that the negotiations between Israel and the PLO will not resume until 'Arafat provides an appropriate and unequivocal answer to Hamas' terrorist actions.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0830 GMT on 12 October adds that "the cabinet continues to hold the PLO leader responsible for the well-being and safety of Nahshon Wachsman. Minister Ben-Eli'ezer said that, according to information in Israel's hands, the abducted soldier was transferred to the Gaza Strip. Minister Yosi Sarid said that Hamas' center of activities is in Gaza and that that is why the PLO's responsibility for what happens there is understood."]

PA Secretary General Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim told REUTERS this morning that Wachsman had been kidnapped by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] men in the West Bank and that he is being held by his abductors in Israeli territory. According to him, last night and this morning the Palestinian security forces conducted debriefings and searches that turned up evidence that Wachsman is in Israeli territory.

Gaza Closed, Talks Halted

TA1210055994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Efforts to find the kidnapped soldier Nahshon Wachsman are centered at this point on gathering intelligence data, security sources told our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] threatens to murder Nahshon Wachsman if their demands regarding the release of a large number of prisoners, including leaders of Hamas, Hizballah, and other organizations, are not met.

A Hamas spokesman in the Gaza Strip told our correspondent Dani Zaqen that the kidnappers will negotiate with Israel and that they are in no way connected with Hamas' political leadership. The spokesman rejected proposals for mediation, saying that neither the Palestinian Authority [PA] nor 'Arafat's aide Ahmad al-Tibi will mediate in the affair.

Palestinian officers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank are gathering information about Wachsman's possible whereabouts. This was the order issued by Yasir 'Arafat at the end of a special session of the Palestinian national security council last night in Gaza. Palestinian security sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that their efforts are currently centered on finding the Hamas member who appeared in the videotape released to the media. The sources believe that the man is a resident of the Gaza Strip, perhaps Kamal Kuhayl, the Hamas man wanted for his involvement in the murder of several Israelis.

The Israel-PA Liaison Committee met at the Erez checkpoint to discuss Wachsman's abduction. The PLO leader's media adviser said that 'Arafat vehemently denounces the soldier's abduction. 'Arafat believes this is a step to provoke the PA, the adviser said.

Israel imposed a closure on the Gaza Strip in the wake of Wachsman's abduction and halted the peace talks with the Palestinians in Cairo. Workers from the Gaza Strip will not be allowed to enter the boundaries of the Green Line. Major General Dani Rothschild, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks in Cairo, has been recalled for consultations in Jerusalem and is due back in Israel this morning. The cabinet will convene this morning to hold a special session on the issue.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin phoned PLO leader 'Arafat last night and told him that he holds him and the PA fully responsible for Nahshon's life and safe return. Mr. Rabin also discussed the matter with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and with aides of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 12 October reports on the phone conversation between Rabin and 'Arafat. Eytan Haber, director of Rabin's bureau, says in a recorded statement: "Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, last night placed full responsibility for the life, safety, and safe return of Private Nahshon Wachsman on PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the PA. In a phone conversation with the PLO chairman, the prime minister said that any harm caused to the soldier abducted by Hamas and any delay in his return might have a very serious impact on the future of Israel's relations with the PA and the continuation of the peace process with the Palestinians.

["The prime minister further told the PLO chairman: You and the PA are responsible for what happens in the areas under your control. You are responsible for the soldier's life and safety and for his safe return to Israel. This is a real test for the PA and for your share in the implementation of our agreement."]

Peres: PA Must 'Act Quickly'

TA1210093694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0815 GMT 12 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Qobi Meydan; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Meydan] I understand that the statement released on behalf of the Palestinian Authority's [PA] secretary general to the effect that the abducted soldier is not in the Gaza Strip is unacceptable to us.

[Peres] That is correct. According to information in our possession, the soldier is apparently being held in Gaza. In any case, this is not a battle waged through newspaper headlines. The PA must enlist all the measures at its disposal—intelligence data and police troops—as soon as possible in order to take control of the situation.

[Meydan] It has been a few hours since the current crisis erupted. From our contacts with Yasir 'Arafat and his aides did you get the impression that they are truly willing to take action in order to bring this affair to a positive conclusion?

[Peres] The best impression is created by deeds. As for words, 'Arafat realizes that he is being held responsible. Their actions will be judged by what they do. There is no other way.

[Meydan] What actions does the Israeli Government expect?

[Peres] I told you: They must seek the necessary information and deploy police troops in order to find the whereabouts of these demented killers who are inflicting a tragedy on the PA and not just on innocent people. We expect them to act quickly and resolutely.

[Meydan] I understand that an accusing finger is being pointed at specific men. We heard several cabinet ministers talk about Abu-Husa's appearance on Israel Television, and they also mentioned the name of Kamal Kuhayl.

[Peres] I believe the media must be very cautious not to fall prey to the other side's psychological warfare. After all, anybody can issue a statement that the soldier is here or there, and people might construe this as fact. The media must use their discretion, because we are all in the same boat and all of us together are fighting the same danger, which is a very serious one. Everybody must show the sense of full responsibility and unity called for at this time.

[Meydan] Sir, have you spoken with 'Arafat since this crisis began?

[Peres] No, I have not. The prime minister spoke with him. What was there for me to talk to him about?

[Meydan] Do you subscribe to the assessment that this is the toughest test to date of the Oslo agreement and the emerging fabric of relations?

[Peres] I think this is a very serious test. Why should I draw analogies? Obviously, the way this crisis is handled will have very serious implications for the future. I do not want to make any analogies. Today we must concentrate on one issue: determining the whereabouts of the abducted soldier, keeping him alive, and bringing him back home. Seeing as how all the indications at the moment show that the event is unfolding in Gaza, it is up to the PA to take action. This is the central point at this moment.

[Meydan] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, thank you very much.

[Peres] You are welcome.

Rafah Border Crossing Closed to Palestinians

TA1210112194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The border crossing between Israel and Egypt at Rafah has been closed to passage for Palestinians wanting to leave the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that, in the meantime, the crossing remains open to Israelis, Egyptians, and third-country nationals.

Government, PLO Faulted for Hamas Attacks

TA1110113294 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Oct 94 p 6

[Editorial: "The Hamas Role"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Perhaps the most frightening aspect of the murderous sprees by Palestinian terrorists is the government's insistence on giving them a twisted interpretation. Until recently, this was true of Hizbullah attacks in Lebanon. The government would persistently blame Hizbullah actions on Iran, or portray the group as uncontrollable, independent fanatics.

Only in recent months have some government officials and army officers admitted that Hizbullah operations are approved by Syria, without whose help and support the organization could not exist. Ironically, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' as much as confirmed Syria's control of the Hizbullah in his interview with Israel Television. The only thing the government is still reluctant to admit publicly is that Hizbullah operations abroad, like the bombing of the Jewish Center in Buenos Aires, were mounted with Syrian help.

The reason for declining to associate Syria with acts of violence is plain enough: It is difficult to persuade Israelis that those who are killing them are trustworthy "partners" in the peace process.

Not surprisingly, the government is even more eager to separate the perpetrators of terrorist acts in Israel and the administered territories from the PLO. Here the process has advanced significantly: An agreement has been signed which entails ceding control over Judaea and Samaria to the PLO. And if the PLO is still bent on continuing the "armed struggle," Israelis may view an arrangement which allows enemy troops to be deployed on the doorstep of Israel's population centers as reckless if not suicidal.

In its eagerness to separate the terrorists from the PLO, the government keeps pointing to those who all-too-happily assume responsibility for the killings. They are Islamic fanatics who hate the peace agreement with the Zionist enemy, say government spokesmen, and they thrive on poverty and hardship (which is why the PLO must be helped to bring prosperity to the self-rule areas).

The PLO, on the other hand, has made a commitment to peace, says the government. If it has not shown any enthusiasm about fighting the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], it is because it still lacks the means with which to do battle. But the Hamas is as much the PLO's enemy as it is Israel's. Fundamentalism, after all, threatens all the region's established regimes. And once the PLO acquires the proper means, it will do what is right, and collaborate with Israel in eradicating the extremist terrorists.

One need not be a great expert on Palestinian society to know how utterly delusive this analysis is. Of course, civilized PLO spokesmen like Ahmad al-Tibi and Nabil Sha'th are quick to condemn terrorist acts like Sunday night's attempted slaughter of passersby in Jerusalem's Nahalat Shiv'a pedestrian mall (which only miraculously ended with only two dead victims).

But the fact is that 70 Jews and innumerable Arabs have been killed by Palestinian terrorists since the signing of the Oslo agreement, and Yasir 'Arafat himself has never openly, personally condemned a single killing. To say, as Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am said yesterday, that with 10,000 armed men—all acting in the name of the Palestinian Authority, not the hated "occupation army"—he does not have the means to fight terrorism is an insult to the intelligence.

That 'Arafat has not been able to apprehend and punish a single terrorist since he established his rule in Gaza and Jericho speaks for itself. His police know who the wanted terrorists are, and they know where they are. The reason they have done nothing against these terrorists is as simple as it is obvious: They have been ordered to leave them alone.

Much has been made of the possibility that one of Sunday night's killers was a soldier in that army euphemistically known as the Palestinian Police. But it would be a mistake to suggest that whether or not he had actually worn a Palestinian uniform makes a difference. The sympathy of this whole army is with the terrorists. Many of the policemen openly support Hamas, and even participate in their demonstrations.

Nor is this true only of the PLO troops. A PLO newspaper in English published in Jerusalem by "moderate" Hanna Sinyurah eulogizes all Hamas murderers killed in self-defense by Israelis, and even those killed by accident by their own bombs, as "martyrs" of the Palestinian struggle. Only the hopelessly gullible can reconcile this with PLO "condemnations" of terrorist acts.

The most common excuse the government makes for 'Arafat's unwillingness to combat terrorism is that he may be assassinated. The Syrian foreign minister also said last week that al-Asad cannot appear to be too eager to make peace because he may meet Anwar al-Sadat's fate. Such reasoning is nothing short of absurd. If the present leaders so fear assassination that they cannot act, the whole peace process is meaningless. If the forces opposed to it are powerful enough to dictate its nature with threats, surely they can void it with action.

It is time for the government, which has finally understood the workings of the Hizbullah, to recognize the structure of Palestinian terrorism. The Hamas can no more operate with PLO approval than the Hizbullah can attack Israeli positions without Syrian consent. In both cases, the "fanatics" kill while the "moderates" negotiate. The killing serves as a threat and a reminder: Unless Israel withdraws, there will be more deaths. And once Israel yields to this kind of blackmail, there will be no end to it.

PBC Banned From Opening Radio, TV Station in Hebron

TA1110112494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria has prevented the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation [PBC] from opening a radio and television office in Hebron.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Salim Abu-Salah, the office's designated director, was summoned to the Civil Administration offices in Hebron several days ago and told that the Civil Administration had decided to forbid the opening.

Military sources told our correspondent that according to the Oslo agreement, the Palestinians were only permitted to establish PBC offices inside the autonomous areas.

Rabin on Syrian Track, Cave of Patriarchs, Terrorism

TA1110165994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said this afternoon that the Syrians have made it clear to him that if progress is made in negotiations, they will see to it that the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations are facilitated and that terrorism from Lebanon is eradicated. Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Rabin also said Israel is interested in the deployment of an international force on the Golan Heights rather than a UN force. Our correspondent Hadar Vismonsky reports:

[Begin recording] [Vismonsky] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' dropped the hint in his interview on Israel Television and now the Israeli prime minister is saying it outright: Rabin says the Syrians have informed him that if Israel and Syria make progress in the negotiations, they will see to it that the Israeli-Lebanese talks are facilitated and that terrorism from Lebanon is eradicated. According to the prime minister, no significant progress has been made so far on the Syrian track.

[Rabin] There are still gaps on central issues, and without agreeing on these issues it will be impossible to attain a peace treaty between Syria and Israel. We are conducting these negotiations in a certain way, especially via the Americans. Consequently the negotiations are difficult and might be protracted, and I would not like to create expectations of some unexpected result from the secretary of state's shuttle mission.

[Vismonsky] Prime Minister Rabin briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee about his Syrian peace package: A minimal withdrawal followed by three years of normalization, after which a withdrawal to what is defined as the peace borders. The prime minister said the Syrians occasionally bring up the issue of our elections, but we do not ask them about the timing of their elections or how long al-Asad will remain in power, Rabin added with some cynicism. The prime minister told the committee that Israel is interested in the deployment of an international force on the Golan Heights rather than a UN force in order to prevent the possibility of a veto by one of the UN countries.

Rabin also dealt with the expected reopening of the Cave of the Patriarchs. He said that if there is an unsolved religious-halakic problem in the area, he sees no problem in further delaying the reopening of the cave for prayer. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 11 October adds: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the attack in Jerusalem two days ago once again proves that terror organizations are more willing to take risks, which is why the government has decided to expand the Jerusalem police force by some 1,500 to 2,000 officers. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that, speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this afternoon, the prime minister added that there is a plan to designate men and women soldiers for units that would patrol the cities in blue police uniforms and would be, as he put it, fighting police officers."

[In similar reports on Rabin's remarks at the Knesset committee at 1600 GMT and 1605 GMT on 11 October, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew adds: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that there are large gaps between the Israeli and the Syrian stands on the four main issues—the peace border, the timetable, the limited withdrawal, and the security arrangements—saying that he has not even begun to understand the Syrian demand regarding the security arrangements. The prime minister disclosed that after a period of nine months for the initial withdrawal, and a normalization period of three years, the withdrawal to the peace border will begin only after yet another period, the duration of which he would not specify. He further said that Syria has rejected an Israeli offer to allow negotiations with Lebanon as a confidence-building measure."

["Speaking about the negotiations with the Palestinians, the prime minister said that over the past few days, the parties began discussing the amendment of the Palestinian Covenant. He stressed that there are wide gaps in the negotiations on elections in the territories. In response to a question by Binyamin Netanyahu, Rabin confirmed that "a Kalashnikov that was used by one of the terrorists in the Jerusalem attack is registered to the Palestinian police," adding that "undoubtedly, this is a very grave thing. We will have to examine whether it was stolen from the police or sold by a policeman." "Rabin added that he demands that 'Arafat take action to prevent Gaza and Jericho from becoming launching pads for terror attacks against Israel. According to him, 'Arafat can do much more to prevent terror."]

Peres: Israel Ready To Act on Golan Compromise

TA0710191994 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Oct 94

[Interview with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen in Washington "this week"—recorded, in English with Hebrew subtitles; transcribed from the English]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Rosen] Mr. Peres, it seems to be that the administration here is not exactly understanding why is Israel insisting about a withdrawal that will take a few years. What is really the difference between withdrawal that will take less than two years, as the Syrians want, and withdrawal of more than two years, as Israel requests?

[Peres] We have, I believe, two or three problems. Number one, we have given our promise to the Israeli public that we shall go for a territorial compromise, not for a full withdrawal. In order to have a territorial compromise as the first step, we have a mandate and we can act immediately; we don't have to postpone it. Secondly, we are following the example of Egypt. It also was done in three stages. And thirdly, we would like—though our public opinion is divided—to reassure the people who are against the peace or the present proposals with Syria to be convinced that we are really trying to do whatever we can to walk on safe grounds. [passage omitted]

[Rosen] Mr. Peres, are you bothered with the fact that American soldiers will have to keep Israeli security in the Golan Heights, that we will be depend on American soldiers?

[Peres] I don't think that we have reached this point. Actually, the previous administration has said that if the two parties will ask for a military presence of the Americans, they will do it. None of the parties has approached as yet for this request. [passage omitted]

[Rosen] Mr. Peres, a final question for you: Prime Minister Rabin made a very, I think, impressive speech this week in the parliament, and it seemed to be that this was his first step in preparing the Israelis for a real withdrawal from the Golan Heights, maybe a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Do you feel so also?

[Peres] I think that the speech of Prime Minister Rabin was to meet the truth of our life and the goals of our destinies, to tell what we are negotiating about and where we want to arrive, and the prime minister, as well as myself, are serving a cause which is greater than ourselves and which is the greatest promise for the state of Israel: to have a better future and more security.

Al-Asad Said To Doubt Country's Golan Position

TA1010110194 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Oct 94 p 7

[Report by Alex Fishman, Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Hemi Shalev, and Shefi Gabay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Syria does not believe that Israel will withdraw from the Golan Heights. This is based on a secret letter relayed to Jerusalem by the Israeli Embassy in London which is based on a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hogg.

Hogg met al-Asad in Damascus on 5 October. The Syrian president told him that he is committed to peace but doubts whether Israel really intends to return the Golan Heights. Al-Asad spoke about the difficulties within the Labor Party and the internal debate raging in Israel over the issue. The British politician got the impression that al-Asad does not believe Israel. Hogg says al-Asad believes that Israel will find a reason to renege on its decision to withdraw at the last minute.

Hogg believes this is why the Syrians regard the Americans as the only element that could convince them to put faith in the Israeli commitments.

The letter also states that al-Asad is concerned about the tendency to spread out the implementation of the peace agreement over a long period, not only because of the possibility of a political turnover in Israel, but also due to the U.S. political picture. Al-Asad has confidence in the Clinton administration and assesses he can only rely on what he will achieve in the next three years.

The British assess that al-Asad is not hurrying to jump on the peace bandwagon because of the prevailing atmosphere in Syria. They claim he has no problem agreeing to free trade between Israel and Syria, especially in view of the solid support of the Syrian business community. The problem is that Syria has no free trade agreement with any country in the world.

The British therefore believe al-Asad will agree to the free movement of persons between the countries, but Israelis will require visas and in any case he will not permit Israelis to visit Damascus en masse. It is also doubtful whether he will agree to hoist the Israeli flag in Damascus before the withdrawal is completed.

The British also received the impression that Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's influence on al-Asad is very limited. They believe that al-Asad is only influenced by the defense establishment. [passage omitted]

Gur Says Talk of IDF Withdrawal Map 'Nonsense'

TA0710180294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Oct 94

[Interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by Shlomo Ganor—recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; translated from the Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Is last night's declaration by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', in which he said that his country is prepared to accept peace and all that involves, a step in the right direction?

[Gur] Definitely a step in the right direction. When I say that in the past two weeks, the music being played is more pleasant, I include al-Asad's latest speech, which was more pleasant, and these remarks by al-Shar', which are also more pleasant. If a line can be drawn between two points, then I hope that this positive line will continue.

[Ganor] This morning, the map recommended by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] map for a Golan withdrawal was published. Based on it, there appears to be readiness for a deep withdrawal. As deputy defense minister and a former chief of staff, what is your reaction to those recommendations by the professional military echelon?

[Gur] Had there been recommendations by the professional military echelon, I might have reacted to them. This report is nonsense. For 27 years there have been plans, and talk about a partial or less partial withdrawal has been around all the time. I can tell you with the fullest authority that up to this moment, there has been no security or IDF or Army plan pointing to any withdrawal policy. The prime minister is very cautious about keeping the Army out of political argument, and there is no staff work involving maps or any arguments before the Syrians make clear to us what kind of peace they are prepared to discuss.

[Ganor] At the same time, however, we are talking about a withdrawal on the Golan. From your military experience, what sort of line can you draw?

[Gur] I can draw many lines, and I have done so, because when I was chief of staff, we were partners to the negotiations with the Syrians after the Yom Kippur War. [passage omitted]

Press Reacts to al-Shar' TV Interview

TA0910120494

[FBIS Editorial Report] All the Israeli dailies on 9 October carry reports on and excerpts of the interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Ehud Ya'ari of Israel Television on 7 October in Washington. The newspapers also carry behind-the-scenes stories, reactions of Israeli officials and semiofficials, editorials, and commentaries. In general, the papers note the importance of the very appearance of the Syrian foreign minister on Israeli television but, while some view the positive aspects, the majority state that the message relayed was not new and that al-Shar' was inaccurate, to say the least, when referring to past events.

The most positive of all is the page-9 editorial of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew. The 600-word editorial, entitled "Al-Shar' on Israel Television" says that the television appearance "is an important landmark in the ongoing dialogue between the two countries," and came as a response to "Rabin's call on Syria to convince the people in Israel of the sincerity of the Syrian intentions to establish a true and stable peace." It adds that the Israeli public could see that "al-Shar' speaks about and directly to Israel, which is a recognition of Israel's political existence," and that Syria "is willing to guarantee that the Lebanese border will be quiet."

Writing on page B1 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew under the headline "One Cannot Do Without the Sheet Music," Dan Margalit also says in his 1,200-word commentary that the interview was "a landmark, but also contained obstacles. Obstacles, however, are only important because the road is being built and the carriage of diplomacy is constantly rolling on it." Using a more cautious tone, Margalit notes that the TV appearance was "an important gesture, but only the first in a series," urging "at least another three: a parallel interview with Shim'on Peres on Syrian television; a visit by al-Asad to Israel or an interview with him at the presidential palace by Ehud Ya'ari; and a Rabin-al-Asad meeting under the auspices of President Clinton."

Margalit also points at several remarks which "were unpleasant to the Israeli ear," when al-Shar' used "the corny anti-Semitic phrase that the Jews beat the Arabs in the propaganda war because they are in control of U.S. and Western media;" when "he maintained that Syria did not shell civilian settlements, which shows that there is something wrong with Syria's political memory;" and his inability to "free himself of outdated Arab propaganda about the wrongs the Jews have done by which millions of refugees were created." The commentary states that "the fact the interview was held at all indicates that real progress has been made in the secret negotiations between the parties; and that the current confusion will soon be replace by clear choices because the time of decision is not as far off as many tend to believe."

The same HA'ARETZ edition carries a 1,000-word editorial entitled "A Fair Compromise Offer" on page B1 which starts off with commenting on the plan the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] presented regarding a territorial compromise on the Golan, saying that "there is reason to believe that Yitzhaq Rabin has turned the recommendations of the military echelons into a document that will serve as a solid foundation for Israel's stands in the negotiations with Syria. The chief of staff himself briefed his U.S. counterpart on it, and we would not be wrong if we say that it is well known in Damascus."

"No Syrian security interest would have been harmed had Hafiz al-Asad accepted the plan. And yet, in his Friday night TV interview by Ehud Ya'ari, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' reiterated the Syrian demand for a total Israeli withdrawal that would include the uprooting of all the settlements and their 'armed' inhabitants. His quiet tone of voice contained no hint that Syria is willing to consider Israel's stands. At the same time, his responding to the Israeli reporter indicates that Syria is willing to negotiate with us—even if through U.S. diplomatic channels at first. The statement that was made after the interview—'the media is the message'—seems true." In the traditional HA'ARETZ line, the editorial concludes: "The Syrians would be better advised to take advantage of the Israeli Government's willingness to concede most of the Golan Heights, with its settlements and settlers. They should not expect similar flexibility from a Likud-led government."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ also carries a commentary on page A4 by 'Aqiva Eldar from Washington. The 1,400-word commentary entitled "Poor Man's al-Sadat" is located right under the translated text of the al-Shar' interview. Eldar notes that the U.S. peace team is very pleased with the al-Shar' TV appearances because "the United States is the kingdom of TV spectaculars and shows in which the setting and stunts are often more important than their content." The interview and the preceding press conference were "gestures designed to change the atmosphere which would allow an erosion of traditional stands." They were supposed to "help Rabin sell the al-Asad deal to the public, but the Syrians will now justifiably claim that it is Rabin's turn to make a concession, and they will not settle for words."

The commentary goes on to say that speaking on the two occasions, "al-Shar' was a poor man's version of Anwar al-Sadat." "He cautiously maneuvered between the Syrian television viewers, U.S. public opinion, and the Israeli undecided voters" by iterating stands that "long ago became outdated at the negotiating table," stating that since 1948, Israel has been the aggressor in every confrontation between the two countries and, "addressing the American audience," he was the "first Syrian statesman to promise that his country will be 'very active' in regional cooperation committees," knowing that Syria is "safely registered on the American list of countries that support the terror and drug trade, and is thus ineligible for a single cent in foreign aid."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew features a 400-word page-7 commentary by the more skeptical Hemi Shalev entitled "There Will Be Some 'Price' for the Interview." Shalev opines that the "interview Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' gave Channel 1 of Israel Television is a handsome achievement for Israeli and American diplomacy, Israel Television, and Ehud Ya'ari. At the same time, it would be harder to determine whether this significant advancement of 'public diplomacy' even slightly achieved its main purpose: to convince Israeli public opinion to support full withdrawal for peace with Damascus." "The interview makes one wonder about the benefits of public diplomacy" as "it should be remembered that someone, we or the Americans, has to pay for every such Syrian 'concession,' and in the same currency." Shalev states that "we demand that the Syrians convince the Israeli public that they really want peace, but al-Shar' and President al-Asad are not the perfect cast for this role. It would perhaps be better if we focused on the main clauses of the agreement with Damascus now, and later we should task the government with doing its job and alone convince the nation that it is a worthy agreement."

Writing on page 2 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew, Shim'on Schiffer entitles his 1,000-word commentary "All the Lies, All the Subtleties." In a point-by-point review of the Syrian foreign minister's remarks, Schiffer says that "al-Shar' sounded very convincing in describing the dangers the Syrian leadership is threatened with on the road to an agreement with Israel." Yet, "less pleasant to the Israeli ear was his false claim according to which Syria, unlike Israel, has never shelled civilian targets." The commentary notes that al-Shar' refused to describe the nature of the Israel-Syria peace; left no doubt that talk of "partial or gradual withdrawal from the Golan is out of the question;" rejected the possibility of a Rabin-al-Asad summit meeting; "revealed the painful fact known to every Israeli that Syria is behind the Hizballah attacks against the IDF soldiers in south Lebanon;" and stated that "Syria prefers UN troops on the Golan."

Schiff concludes by saying that "al-Shar' still holds the outdated notion according to which Syria is holding the key to a comprehensive peace in the region. It is, however, contradicted by the facts: Israel and the PLO reached an agreement, Israel and Jordan are about to make one, and Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states canceled the main aspects of the boycott against Israel—all without Syria."

A 300-word segment entitled "Unconvincing" of the three-piece editorial column on page 3 of the HAYOM supplement of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew says that one can say about the al-Shar' TV interview that "he did not do it well, but it is surprising he did it at all." The editorial claims that al-Shar' was "brazenly lying when he claimed that Syrian forces have never attacked Israeli civilian targets," and that he believes that "Israel was born in sin, believing peace to be a favor the Arabs do for Israel." "To al-Shar's credit it can be said that he has not changed. He remained tough and detached, as one who regards peace with Israel as 'a strategic goal' and not a heart wish. If al- Shar's appearance was the carrot, the Hizballah attack in south Lebanon only a few hours after the show was the stick." "The goodwill gesture by the Syrian foreign minister last weekend only served to demonstrate the big distance between us and peace."

The page-6 editorial of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English entitled "The al-Shar' Show," contains 2,000 words, and follows on the same tone, saying that al-Shar' "accommodated President Bill Clinton by making a public-relations gesture." The POST also states that Syria understood that "image is at least as important as substance" adding that the interview served "to remind Israelis that the reports of Syrian softening are baseless," and notes "there is something quite breathtaking about the ability of officials of dictatorial regimes to lie so brazenly in public." The editorial states that "al-Shar' showed no inclination to modify the Syrian stand on the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict," and as a whole, "the message was hardly comforting." The POST concludes: "Unlike the current Israeli negotiators, the Syrians seem to understand that the tough bargainer usually wins." "Unfortunately, Israel's negotiators seem to think they know better."

Seconding this sentiment is the 1,200-word editorial of Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on page 3, entitled "Between the Interview and Reality." It says: "If we examine it closely, we will find that the Syrians are very far from making any real progress toward peace in the region." "It seems that Israel is wrong in demanding confidence-building gestures from Syria. Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres may need these gestures to justify their policy of withdrawal, but they do not build confidence."

"The interview al-Shar' gave Israel Television was mere lip service aimed at proving to President Clinton that Syria is willing to make gestures toward Israel to promote peace while, basically, it adheres to its position that Israel must withdraw from the Golan Heights and that this is a precondition for the promotion of regional peace." In view of this, HATZOFE does not believe that during his current shuttle, Christopher will indeed be able to bring the parties closer together. "Al-Asad hopes that one day Rabin will be forced to accept the Syrian demand because he is in a rush," and, HATZOFE concludes, "he who is in a rush cannot hope for real achievements in the negotiations with the Syrian president."

Press on Iraqi Move to Kuwaiti Border, U.S. Role

TA0910151894

[FBIS Editorial Report] The 9 October Israeli press carries numerous reports and commentaries on the Iraqi troop movements.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew carries on pages A1 and A10 a 500-word commentary by Ze'ev Schiff entitled "Iraq Is Playing Into the Hands of the United States." Schiff asserts that "the Iraqi step is surprising, because at present Iraq is incapable of repeating its 1990 moves without sustaining serious damage. The concentration of troops on the Kuwaiti border is, therefore, none other than a furious reaction."

Schiff argues that by moving troops to the Kuwaiti border—a step designed to express vexation with the UN-imposed sanctions—Iraq "is in fact playing into the hands of Washington, which was afraid it would be unable to persuade its allies to continue the sanctions for much longer." He adds that, unlike some of its allies, the United States firmly believes the sanctions should be continued. "For that reason, the Americans are doing all they can to prevent the strengthening of Saddam Husayn in any sphere. This position was the reason for U.S. officials' resentment of the rumors that Israeli figures were holding contacts with Iraq."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew publishes on page 2 under the heading "The Suicide From Baghdad" a signed 300-word editorial by Sever Plotzker, who writes: "Saddam Husayn's death wish has reawakened. The insane despot, who dragged his nation into two wars in which he was humiliatingly defeated, is now dreaming of a third war. He will be defeated in this one, too. Yet this time, it should be a quick, full, and final defeat."

Plotzker warns that Saddam Husayn's actions are dictated by "desires and impulses. He lives in a bubble of terror. He is a psychopath liable to hand down politically and militarily illogical orders. Therefore, we must not act on the assumption that the Iraqi Army's latest movement toward Kuwait is mere bluffing designed to pressure the United Nations.

"Saddam Husayn may be truly planning another war. If he is, it should be his last. A war recurring at four-year intervals in the Gulf is beginning to get on the entire world's nerves."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew publishes on page 3 of its HAYOM supplement under the title "Saddam Is Moving Again" a 150-word editorial signed by Yosef Lapid, who writes: "The Americans are now paying the price of President George Bush's foolish decision to stop the Gulf war before the Iraqi Army was vanquished and before Saddam Husayn was ousted."

Tel Aviv 'AL-HAMISHMAR in Hebrew carries a 200-word front page commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari entitled "The Past Will Not Be Repeated," which asserts that "if an armed confrontation does take place in the Gulf, Saddam Husayn will be almost totally isolated, because his main allies are wrapped up in a peace process and will be averse to forfeiting their achievements."

'Inbari adds: "This time, Saddam has no cause to involve Israel in the crisis, because its involvement can no longer bring on the collapse of the Arab-Western alliance against Saddam Husayn. On the contrary, Gulf states will be willing to engage Israel's deterrent power against Saddam Husayn. Potentially, this has opened up prospects for Israel's incorporation into the Middle East defense system. This potential illustrates the possibility of Israel's incorporation into regional security arrangements, which are an integral part of the peace agreement with Syria."

Peres Comments at 10 Oct Knesset Debate

TA1110180794 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by Evelyn Gordon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government easily defeated two no-confidence motions yesterday, by a vote of 56-45, with two abstentions.

Five of the six SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] MKs [Knesset members] absented themselves from the vote, but the sixth, Yosef 'Azran, voted with the opposition. Yi'ud [Independent and Democratic Israel] was also split: MKs Gonen Segev and Alex Goldfarb abstained, while Ester Salmovitz voted with the opposition.

The motions were submitted by the Likud and Tzomet over what they called the government's plans to give the entire Golan back to Syria.

However, both David Levi (Likud) and Moshe Peled (Tzomet), who presented their respective parties' motions, devoted much of their time to Sunday night's attack in Jerusalem.

"(The attack arouses) shock at the event and protest against the government's path," Levi said, charging that terror has become "routine" since the agreement with PLO was signed.

"We cannot let ourselves become accustomed to this routine—even in the name of peace," he said. "This is a desecration of the term 'peace.'"

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres ignored this issue, however, beyond joining in the condolences to the victims of the attack and praising the security forces for their quick action.

In his blistering response to the motions, he appeared to confirm the government's intent to return the whole Golan.

He began by noting that the Camp David Accords had set the precedent for both total withdrawal and the dismantling of settlements. "This made a powerful impression on the Arab world," he said.

When outraged opposition MKs then asked him how the Sinai might differ from Jerusalem, Peres retorted angrily:

"Between Sinai and Jerusalem, there is a difference as deep as history. But between Sinai and the Golan, you explain the difference! Jerusalem is a historical issue—not strategic, not political, and not business.

"You (the Likud) were the first to recognize territorial disputes," Peres stated. "What do you do—kill them (the Arabs)? Or solve (the disputes)?... You have to provide an answer."

Peres praised the late Menahem Begin for recognizing that the Palestinian people cannot be made to disappear by denying their existence. The only alternative to such recognition, he said, is "if you believe that 120,000 Palestinian will sit in prison."

Levi charged the government with failure in numerous areas: economic, social, and diplomatic. In particular, it has abandoned security considerations, he said—noting that even the army has said it will be hard to protect civilians after the withdrawal stipulated in the agreement with the PLO.

"But the most serious thing of all is this government's contempt—... for public opinion," Levi said. "All (opponents of the government) are 'obstacles" and 'enemies of peace'. Even the legislators are 'stupid'. There is no body that hasn't been attacked by (the government).

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Visits

Arrives in Amman

JN1110165894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Amman on a working visit to Jordan as part of his current Middle Eastern tour. The U.S. secretary will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senor officials. These talks will concern bilateral ties, the regional peace process, and the progress of talks on the Jordanian-Israeli track, as well as a number of issues of mutual concern, including the recent developments in the Gulf.

Christopher was received upon arrival by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister and foreign minister; Talal Sat'an al- Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; the Amman governor, the director of Amman police; a number of officials; and the U.S. ambassador in Amman. An honor guard was also on hand to greet the guest.

Christopher is accompanied on his visit to Jordan by a delegation including Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs; Ambassador Dennis Ross, coordinator of the Middle East peace process; and a large number of journalists and media people.

Meets With King, Crown Prince

JN1110204194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian side, headed by His Majesty King Husayn, and the U.S. side, headed by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, have held a session of talks at the Royal Hashemite Court.

Our correspondent Kassab Samawi reports from the Royal Hashemite Court:

[Begin Samawi recording] The Jordanian-U.S. talks began at the Royal Hashemite Court directly after Secretary Christopher's arrival in Amman. His Majesty King Husayn received Mr. Christopher at Raghadan Palace. This was followed by an expanded meeting. Attending the meeting for the Jordanian side were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Marwan al-Qasim, his majesty the king's political adviser; Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of information; Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordan's ambassador to Washington. Attending for the U.S. side were Robert Pelletreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs; Ambassador Dennis Ross, special coordinator of the Middle East peace process, the U.S. ambassador in Amman, and a number of officials accompanying Secretary Christopher. The meeting was still going on when this report was prepared.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan earlier received Mr. Christopher and the accompanying delegation. The two sides discussed the peace process, the results of his highness the crown prince's recent visit to the United States, bilateral relations, and fields of economic cooperation. The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; and Marwan al-Qasim, his majesty the king's political adviser. The U.S. secretary of state arrived in Amman at about 1730 [1530 GMT] today. [end recording]

Husayn, Christopher News Conference

JN1110213994 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 11 Oct 94

[News conference by King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher with foreign and domestic correspondents at the Royal Palace in Amman on 11 October; from the "News at Ten" newscast—recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Husayn] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen; a very hearty welcome to you all, and of course we are overjoyed to have the opportunity to welcome Secretary of State, a very dear friend, back to Jordan on his current important mission in the region. We have had, as usual, very constructive talks and we are heartened by the progress that has been achieved and the promise of further positive movement towards the establishment of a comprehensive peace in this region.

As far as we are concerned, obviously progress has been made and hopefully we will continue to be partners and friends in seeking the breaking of a new dawn for this entire region. I thank very much indeed Mr. Secretary, most welcome.

[Christopher] Thank you, Your Majesty. I am very pleased and fortunate to be here again tonight, enjoying the hospitality of the king and pursuing with him our efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace. I congratulated the king on the progress that he and Prime Minister Rabin have made toward an agreement between their two countries. I reported to him on my efforts on the other bilateral tracks and we had a very good and promising discussion of the peace process as a whole.

Unfortunately, the peace process is not the only item on our agenda. Once again, the international community is faced with threats of aggression, here in the Middle East. Once again the international community will stand together in resisting these efforts.

The king and I are in full agreement that the Iraqis must not be allowed to undermine regional stability and security. Threats and aggression, we have agreed, have no place here in the Middle East. Iraq's military provocations are a vestige of the past that has threatened its Arab neighbors, while bringing untold misery to the people of Iraq.

In truth, the person who has brought the misery and suffering to the people of his country is Saddam Husayn. As President Clinton made clear in his address last night, Saddam's aggression will not be allowed to succeed. He must never again be allowed to disturb the peace as he has in the past.

Thanks in large part to King Husayn's courage and leadership, the Middle East is a far different place now than it was four years ago. Your Majesty, your courage and your leadership are now helping to build a new Middle East of peace security and regional cooperation. Through the Washington declaration and the trilateral process, Jordan and Israel have laid a strong foundation for peace. Their cooperation promises to bring great benefits to the people of both countries.

Based upon my conversation with both the prime minister and King Husayn, I believe that Jordan and Israel will be able to conclude a peace treaty in the very near future, and of course that is good news, not only for the people of the two countries but for the world as a whole.

By doing so, they will enable us to take a long step toward a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, a peace that can bring security and development to the people of both nations which they have been so long denied and which they so richly deserve.

Thank you, Your Majesty, for your hospitality and for the honor of coming here.

[Jordan Television correspondent Murid Hammad] Mr. Christopher: First, we would like to welcome you back in Jordan. This is your sixth trip to the region, and it seems that throughout these trips, there is a lot of emphasis on the Syrian-Israeli track. Yet at the same time, it seems that there are also problems on the Jordan-Israeli track, which in the way Jordan looks at it, there is no Israeli recognition of Jordanian territorial rights and water rights. Would Jordan or can Jordan expect the United States to use its good offices with Israel to help break this?

[Christopher] I believe that's an appropriate question for the king.

[Husayn] I would like say here that as far as we are concerned, progress is being made. There are still areas to be addressed and addressed in a satisfactory way. To both sides, this is not an equation, one side gains more than the other. Both of us gain equally. After all, both in Israel, the prime minister, and here, myself, we have our constituencies, and we have our parliaments, and we have our people. And that the end of the day, it is our hope that we will be able to present something that is acceptable, that addresses the question of rights in terms of territory, water, and every other aspect of the discussions as part of the agenda that is well known. So, in this particular area, I would like to say that things are moving, and that we are optimistic, and that our approach has been to avail ourselves of our friends to help us as much as they could in the trilaterals and in every way possible. And at the same time, we are directly dealing with the problem on either side of this issue both in Israel and in Jordan and directly, and I think that we have covered a lot of ground as a result. The last meeting and others that might follow at the very highest levels are meetings of the shepherds, so to speak of the process, and I think we have identified where problems still remain to be addressed and I think we are covering ground towards addressing the matter quickly. So, everything is going well, and regardless of what you may speculate on, things are moving in the right direction and we are full of optimism.

[Jonathan Ferziker] I am from UPI. Prime Minister Rabin has said that 1994 is going to be the year for peace. Do you expect to sign a peace treaty before January, and would you sign such a treaty before Syria is ready to sign it?

[Husayn] Whenever we have completed all our negotiations, resolved all our problems, we will sign a peace treaty that will be the crowning achievement of this process in which we are now engaged. As to the exact, specific time, I really cannot tell. I am telling you that as far as we are concerned as soon as we fish, and are doing our best to do so, in as short a space of time as possible, we will be in a position to ratify a peace treaty.

[Unidentified correspondent] This is both for Your Majesty and Secretary Christopher. I like to ask both of you, what you tell the many people of the Arab world who believe that the reason there is so much suffering among the Iraqi people is, are the United Nations' sanctions and not Saddam Husayn?

[Husayn] I don't think that the United Nations' sanctions would have been there had it not been for the action that brought that about. And I would like here to make it very very clear that as far as we are concerned here in Jordan, and I, in particular at this point in time, would like to express my very deep sadness, and disappointment, and anger over these recent movements of troops in southern Iraq. Not that it is not the right of any country to move troops wherever it feels like within its territory. But, that the perception should be that it is a repeat of something that happened four years ago that brought this entire region a lot of misery and a lot of suffering, and particularly the people of Iraq. If this is bringing up the possibility of Arabs fighting Arabs again and if Iraq is moving in that direction, it will not be able to persuade any that it is moving in anything except to further the suffering of people in this entire region and jeopardize conditions in this area, and as far as we are concerned, we would be against Iraq if it did so, very clearly and very very openly.

On the other hand, the suffering of the people continues. And, I really don't know how we address that. Something has to be done. Iraq after all is a country and a people that are historically a major part of this area. They have a right as founding members of the United Nations. They have a right as human beings beyond all that. Here, I differentiate between a government and a leadership, and a people. As far as the people are concerned, they have every sympathy from us and every concern for their future. But, certainly, we cannot identify, nor condone actions that create an atmosphere where doubts again rise as to what might happen at any time in this irresponsible manner. And I am very very sad and sorry about that. I hope somehow a solution will be found and the people of Iraq will be free of fear, of intimidation, of hunger, of need. And, what our hope has always been for Iraq is a democratic Iraq, where pluralism is a way of life, where democracy is a way of life, where respect for human rights is paramount. I hope this will happen somehow. But we are against any adventures in this area with all our might. Thank you.

[Christopher] Steve, on your question I've little to add to what the king said. But I want to emphasize the statement that I made earlier. The person who in truth has caused the suffering to the people of Iraq is Saddam Husayn. Little, better proof of that could be found in the fact that he's failed to take advantage of the United Nations Security Council resolutions which would permit him to sell a billion dollar, more than a billion dollars of oil, and to use the funds for food and other humanitarian assistance. His refusal to take advantage of those resolutions, I think, has proved positive that he is really the cause of the suffering and not the resolutions themselves.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, [words indistinct] developing situation in Iraq. It seems that the American government is now seriously considering creating what has been called a no-tank zone in southern Iraq, close to the Kuwaiti border, which would match the no-fly zone, which is already in place. Now people are talking about this as another serious ratcheting up of the action against Iraq. It is clearly another infringement of Iraqi sovereignty in a legal sense. I'd like to know what both of you think about a no-tank zone. Do you feel that this is the only thing now left to the Americans and the United Nations to do?

[Christopher] I think that the President addressed that question this afternoon. He said that it was premature for him to discuss it at the present time, that in related possibilities, he said we will be consulting with our allies and with the other countries in the region as to how to prevent a recurrence of this particular phenomenon, that, as far as any particular approach to it, the President was not prepared to address those, nor am I.

[Husayn] As far as I am concerned, I really have no answer to that. I think that it is indeed more than regrettable than any government places itself in a position where others have to look at what they should or shouldn't do to prevent it creating a dangerous situation in the region or threatening others.

[Correspondent] The point sir, Your Majesty the point is surely that people in Jordan, people throughout the Arab world are going to take a view as to whether it is right for the United States and the other Western powers to continue to put this kind of military pressure on Iraq. You are going to have to face because your people will be thinking about it and probably will express their opinions about it.

[Husayn] Well, I feel as strongly as any of my people feel about Iraq and about the suffering of the people of Iraq. But somehow this dilemma has got to be worked out and hopefully this nightmare will end in a way that will give Iraqis the freedom and the place they deserve to occupy both in the region and in the world.

[Correspondent] But you would be prepared to contemplate more military action against Baghdad, against Saddam Husayn's regime?

[Husayn] I will be willing to react very seriously and so will we here in Jordan, as we have made it very, very clear in regard to any threat that might develop in the region. If it is Iraqi, then we will definitely stand in the face of it, with everything that we have got, with everything that we can.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, you said that you didn't really know what could be done to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people. But what about the specific question of the easing or lifting of sanctions? Do you fully agree with the United States that sanctions should not be eased at all against the regime in Iraq?

And to the American secretary of state: Sir, we understand that Russia, China, and France have been asking for the sanctions to be eased. After what has happened, what you think will be the position of those members of the Security Council? Do you advocate even more punishment on Iraq after this turn of events or do you think this is a signal that perhaps Iraq should be applauded for the cooperation it had given so far before this latest turn to the United Nations? Thank you.

[Husayn] Well, we all had great hopes before all this happened that things might be on their way towards a satisfactory resolution particularly with Iraq adhering, if it did so, to these resolutions, and accepting them, implementing them fully. That is where I am very, very saddened and very puzzled by this move that is totally irresponsible, and which might have cast doubts on the credibility of the whole situation once again, in a manner reminiscent of what happened several years ago.

So, I don't know. I can only tell you that as far as I am concerned, I am very hurt for the Iraqi people, and no matter what I say, this is a fact.

In the period up to 1958, my family was in Iraq. Iraq was part of the union with Jordan. I lost this family. I lost so much there. Yet, I recognized Iraq following that and the right of the Iraqis to decide their own fate and their own future and withdrew from the scene myself. And recently, the war with Iran. I mean, we suddenly were confronted with it. We had to rush in to help because of the threat it produced to the entire region.

More recently, the attack on Kuwait. We were not for that. We were never for it. We were unaware of it being hatched up and suddenly there it was. And we tried our very best to resolve the problem peacefully and now to go back into the same situation again with all that has happened to the people of Iraq in the interim period is something that is unbelievable. And we are very concerned and very worried for the people, but we cannot identify, in any form or way, with these policies that are bringing about these threats and disasters to this region.

[Christopher] Without accepting the premise in your question regarding France, Russia, and China, let me say that Saddam Husayn I think had proved once again that he is a master of miscalculation. The action he has taken with respect to the Kuwaiti border I think undermines any effort that anyone might have made to lift or diminish the sanctions. Indeed, the actions he has taken are the best proof that the sanctions should remain in full force and effect until they are fully complied with.

[Correspondent] Mr. Christopher. We want to hear from you what's going on on the Syrian-Israeli track? Are they going to achieve progress before the end of this year?

[Christopher] I had about a meeting of almost four hours today with President al-Asad. It was a constructive meeting. I was I think renewed in my conviction that both parties are serious in their endeavors to search for peace in the area. Gaps still exist, but I think the negotiations are moving in the right direction. Both parties I think are hopeful that a comprehensive peace can be achieved, which, of course, would have to include that track as well. It's really not for me to make predictions about time frames. That really is up to the parties. All I can say is the United States will be available to facilitate their actions whenever and, indeed, wherever they want us to.

[Husayn] Okay. Thank you very very much. Thank you.

Christopher Departs for Kuwait

JN1210114794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher left Amman for Kuwait this morning at the end of his talks with His Majesty King Husayn. He was seen off by Prime Minister Dr.'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the minister of state for foreign affairs, the Amman governor, and the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Talks With Palestinian Delegation Held in Amman

Palestinians Arrive

JN0910154194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian delegation led by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, official in charge of culture and information at the Palestinian National Authority, arrived in Amman today via the King Husayn Bridge, on a visit to Jordan which will last several days. During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with a number of officials on cooperation between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides.

In a statement to a Jordanian News Agency correspondent, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that this visit comes within the framework of following up on Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and cooperation. He said he hoped that a number of agreements would be reached during the visit in various fields, including one on economic issues. He said that means of securing the strongest economic relations between the two sides would be discussed, as well as a number of administrative issues and ways to promote political coordination to bolster ties between the two fraternal peoples.

He said: Through joint efforts and common views, we will achieve our joint objectives to guarantee our rights and to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that protects our nation's interests.

The delegation includes Ahmad Quray', official in charge of economy, trade, and industry; Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ahmad, official in charge of communications; Hasan Tahbub, official in charge of awqaf; Jamil al-Tarifi, chairman of the liaison committee, Furayh Abu-Middayn, official in charge of justice; Dr. Amin Haddad, director general of economy and economic affairs; and Samir Halilah, director general of economy and trade affairs.

Talks Begin

JN0910213494 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordanian and Palestinian officials resumed talks in Amman on ties of cooperation between Jordan and Palestinian self-ruled areas.

A Palestinian delegation led by Palestinian PNA [Palestinian National Authority] Culture and Information Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh arrived in Amman earlier today for the talks.

Minister of State and Education Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah headed the talks with the PNA team. Al-Rawabidah was joined by the ministers of information, transport, interior, industry and trade, culture, communications, and justice, as well as the acting minister of state for foreign affairs.

The PNA team included among its members the economy, waqf, and civil affairs officials.

Minister al-Rawabidah said after the talks they had frank and substantive discussions, and that they agreed on the agenda for their meetings. He said they first discussed the issue of Palestinians displaced since 1967. Economic issues will discussed tomorrow.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that they exchanged views on some political issues and hoped that the talks would lead to practical results.

'Abd-Rabbuh: Differences 'Normal'

JN1010111494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Oct 94 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho resumed talks on Sunday on cooperation in various spheres and officials described the discussions are frank and clear.

The talks come after a period of a pronounced strain in relations over non-coordination in the Middle East peace process and a controversy over Jordan's religious role in Arab East Jerusalem.

Senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials have said that several meetings between senior PNA emissaries had managed to settle the differences and that the way was clear for agreements during the current talks.

'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, minister of education and minister of state, who headed the Jordanian side to the meeting, said one of the issues tackled during the first session was a working paper defining the positions of the two sides on the issue of displaced persons.

"We are trying to bring views closer towards common positions and convictions on the various issues, including the political, economic and commercial dimensions in addition to documents (of Palestinians living in the West Bank)," Mr. al-Rawabidah told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after the meeting.

He said the two sides would tackle economic and administrative issues on Monday.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture in the PNA who led the Palestinian side to the meetings, said: "Several pending issues need more coordination and discussion with a view to enhancing bilateral relations."

Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh conceded that there were differences in views but said they were only normal. "We are keen on starting frank dialogue that would strengthen our common interests," he said.

He said the issue of Awqaf in the occupied territories was not discussed Sunday but that it was open for discussions to serve the interests of the two sides.

Jordan announced last month that it was severing all links with the Islamic shrines and Awqaf in the West Bank except those in Jerusalem. The PLO has welcomed that move.

'Umar al-Katib, acting chief of the Palestinian mission here, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that the PNA delegation, which includes at least six ministers in the self-rule authority, was authorised to sign agreements with Jordan.

"It is imperative that we sign agreements," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh himself, in an arrival statement, said the team intended to conclude agreements, including economic accords, in addition to discussing means of developing political coordination.

"Through combined efforts and shared vision, we will be able to reach our common goals to ensure our rights and achieve a just and comprehensive peace which will protect our peoples' interests," he said.

The nature of the two teams which met Sunday reflected the nature of the issues being discussed in terms of bilateral cooperation. The Palestinian side is expecting Jordan to help it with expertise in various areas of governance and local infrastructure.

The Jordanian team to the talks included Minister of Information and Minister of State Jawad al-'Anani, Minister Transport Samir Qa'war, Interior Minister Salamah Hammad, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf, Minister of Youth and Acting Foreign Minister Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam, Minister of Culture Juma'ah Hammad, Minister of Communications Hashim al-Dabbas and Minister of Justice Hisham al-Tall.

The PNA team included Economy Minister Ahmad Quray', who was earlier expected to head the delegation (no explanation was available why Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh was reinstated as the team leader), Minister of Awqaf Hasan Tahbub, Minister of Civil Aairs Jamil al- Tarifi, Minister of Transport 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Hajj, Minister of Justice Furayh Abu-Middayn and Mr. al-Khatib, the head of the Palestinian mission.

According to Palestinian sources, the PNA delegation is also expected to discuss a possible visit to Jordan by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO and president of PNA.

Jordan has said that it would welcome such a visit but that Mr. 'Arafat should be prepared to hold in-depth discussions here with a view to settling all outstanding issues and arriving at agreements that would be respected and implemented.

Talks Focus on Economics

JN1010221494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian-Palestinian talks resumed at the Foreign Ministry a short while ago to discuss the joint agenda, which includes several topics and issues pertaining to bilateral cooperation between Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule authority.

The Jordanian side, headed by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of education, and the Palestinian side, headed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, official in charge of culture and information in the Palestinian self-rule authority, held a three-hour round of talks, in which the two sides focused on economic aspects.

At the end of the talks, al-Rawabidah and 'Abd-Rabbuh spoke to our correspondent Kassab Samawi and other journalists.

[Begin recording] [al-Rawabidah] Why is focus always placed on points of disagreement rather than points of agreement? The talks between us and our brothers are still in their beginnings. The issues we discuss are intended to shape a future and a relationship between the two states and the two countries. This process cannot be concluded in hours. We hope to be able to project the points of agreement. Yes, there are differences in views about the form of economic, trade, and customs ties. However, these matters can be discussed and many points of agreement can be found. We hope that we will reach agreements on some matters when these talks and meetings resume.

[Unidentified correspondent] What about the awqaf [Islamic endowments] issue, Your Excellency Abu-'Isam?

[Al-Rawabidah] We will discuss it in later meetings, God willing.

[Samawi] Did today's talks center on economy and economic cooperation?

[Al-Rawabidah] Today, we discussed the economic issue, including currency, banking, and trade cooperation.

[Correspondent] Will Jordan lift its custodianship over Jerusalem as it did in the West Bank?

[Al-Rawabidah] Jordan is not a custodian of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state, and sovereignty over it is for the Palestinian people and their independent state. We are talking about the religious jurisdiction and not about custodianship over Jerusalem.

['Abd-Rabbuh] We discussed economic issues such as banking, currency, and trade. I can say that the discussion was profound, frank, and practical. Some people, Abu-'Isam, see the half-empty glass. We say that we have filled a quarter or even a half of the glass, hoping that we will fill it entirely. We discussed most of the economic issues, and we will resume discussion of the rest of the other economic issues, hoping that we will reach an agreement on several practical and persisting points in order to promote Jordanian-Palestinian economic relations, to open the way for Jordanian-Palestinian trade activity, and to organize the banking activity for the benefit of these relations and their development.

[Samawi] Is the economic agreement intended to be an alternative to the one which was not signed, or is it a new formula?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We are not talking about alternatives or new formulas. There are facts, with which we are trying to deal in a realistic way and to organize relations and gradually promote them. [end recording]

Evening Session Held

JN1010222294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian side, headed by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, the minister of education, and the Palestinian side, headed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, official in charge of information in the Palestinian Authority, held an evening session and discussed the issue of awqaf [Islamic endowments] and Islamic courts in Jerusalem, as well as several administrative issues. Details are provided by our correspondent Muhammad al-Majali:

[Begin recording] [al-Majali] The evening session held by the Jordanian and Palestinian sides at the Foreign Ministry is the second round of talks today. During this session, they discussed the awqaf issue in occupied Jerusalem and the Islamic courts. There will be more meetings on these issues. 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, minister of education, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and head of the Jordanian side, said:

[Al-Rawabidah] The evening session was as good as other sessions. It was a meeting among brothers. Discussion centered on two subjects. The first is the awqaf and the Islamic courts in the West Bank, particularly in Jerusalem. The second is related to administrative procedures pertaining to documents issued in the West Bank and ways of implementing them. Our brothers reiterated their welcoming of Jordan's measures to disengage ties with the awqaf. The question now centers on the relationship between the Islamic courts in the West Bank and the Islamic Court of Appeal in Jerusalem, as well as the relationship between the West Bank awqaf and the main center of the awqaf department in Jerusalem. In light of our cooperation, we agreed that our brothers would present a working paper defining these relationships to protect the holy shrines from any possible vacuum and to ensure our brothers' right to take over the awqaf and Islamic courts in a reasonable way to facilitate procedures for citizens. Regarding administrative measures, particularly ratifying documents, because you know that Jordan does not want to take any measures to complicate transactions of the kinsfolk in thy West Bank. To facilitate ratifying these documents issued in the West Bank, we agreed to await a decision on the awqaf department and Islamic courts. This may be a term of reference for ratifying documents in the coming stage. Discussion with the brothers will resume next week on this framework to arrive at a final result, God willing.

[Al-Majali] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the Palestinian side, said:

['Abd-Rabbuh] As His Excellency 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah said, we have agreed to prepare working papers regarding Islamic courts and the awqaf because these issues are very sensitive and affects citizens lives and their daily transactions and affairs. I do not believe there are any problems between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides in this regard. We are trying to facilitate matters for the citizens and to stress the role and responsibility of the Palestinian authority. This is the rule from which Jordan and the Palestinian Authority are proceeding. Therefore, we will continue our work and will conduct further studies of these issues so we can find solutions in harmony with our needs to facilitate matters for the citizens. Therefore, I believe that we will hold other meetings within a few days or next week. A realistic spirit prevailed in our meetings to reach practical results through Jordan's decision to strengthen the role of the Palestinian Authority and through our joint effort to ensure citizens' interests and rights. [end recording]

Cabinet Briefed on Talks

JN1110205394 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Council of Ministers convened for a briefing on the just concluded Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation talks, meetings of a joint Jordanian-U.S. economic committee, and Jordan's activities at the UN General Assembly.

Minister of Education 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, who led talks with a delegation from the Palestinian self-rule authority, told the Cabinet that they had agreed on four issues. He said these included Jordan's decision to sever links to holy endowments and Islamic courts in the West Bank, refugees, administrative issues regarding passports, and economic cooperation.

Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani also informed the Cabinet about a meeting of the trilateral Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli committee in Washington earlier this month. He said the three countries agreed on a development plan for the Jordan Rift Valley.

Agreements Reached

JN1210073994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Oct 94 pp 1, 7

[Article by a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordanian and Palestinian officials concluded three days of meetings on Tuesday [11 October] after reaching broad agreements on several key issues, including trade, exemption of goods from customs duties, monetary and banking affairs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and civil aviation.

The agreements appeared to signal a major breakthrough for Jordanian-Palestinian relations, which have seen their lowest ebb in recent days over non-coordination in the peace process and conflicting perceptions of priorities.

'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, head of the Jordanian delegation, and his Palestinian counterpart Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the agreements covered exchange of goods, Jordan's role and help in supervising commercial banks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the continued status of the Jordanian dinar as the main legal tender in the territories, and the Kingdom's help in setting up a Palestinian airline and training Palestinian civil aviation staff, including pilots and flight crew.

Under he agreement, Jordan will help the Palestine self-rule authority. That marked a change from an earlier agreement that the banks will operate under the rules and regulations of the Central Bank of Jordan.

It was also agreed that Palestinian planes will be registered in Jordan and the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) will serve as the base for the flights of the proposed Palestinian airline. All flights to the self-rule territories will be routed through QAIA, Mr. al-Rawabidah and Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

On Sunday and Monday, the two sides agreed to draw up a working paper outlining the Palestinian position on the issue of displaced persons ahead of a coordinated Jordanian-Palestinian position in meetings of a Palestinian-Israeli-Jordanian-Egyptian committee to discuss the subject.

On the issue of Jerusalem, they agreed that the Palestinian side would present a paper on Palestinian ideas about the status of the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem—a key difference that developed between Amman and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership after Israel acknowledged the Kingdom's historic role vis-a-vis the shrines.

Palestinian delegates attending this week's talks in Amman have said that the PLO-led Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho did not intend to seek any change in the present status of the shrines in Jerusalem at this point in time.

That PNA position developed after Jordan severed all its links with Awqaf [Islamic endowments] and Islamic shrines in the West Bank except those in Jerusalem late last month. The PNA has said it had taken charge of the religious affairs of the West Bank since then.

Prince Hasan Cited on Developments in Gulf

JN1110210094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan today opened in Amman the fourth general congress of the Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions. The congress seeks to develop labor legislation and improve our national economy.

His highness delivered a speech at the opening ceremony in which he reviewed Jordan's economic achievements and Jordanian's position on the peace process, various political issues, and the situation in the Arab homeland. Details in the following report:

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said that the building of the model country, sought by His Majesty King Husayn, requires us to continue efforts and to study matters more deeply to arrive at the solutions and measures that can achieve that goal. His highness called for setting up a single organization to coordinate the information obtained from the various ministries and departments on the various factors involved in the labor market. He said social work in our country has developed and we have taken good steps to achieve social justice. The forthcoming phase, he said, dictates that we exert further efforts and work on improving our society to provide decent life to its citizens. His highness noted that large part of these efforts must be shouldered by the various trade unions. [passage omitted]

On current developments in the Gulf, his highness the crown prince said:

[Begin Hasan recording] I only wished to reaffirm the following. Yes, we support noninterference in the domestic affairs of neighboring states. Yes, we support Arab sovereignty on Arab soil and we support mutual respect. And, yes, we support... [changes thought] this is not something new. This is not rhetoric. This country was the passageway for 1.5 million refugees, in a period of weeks, in August 1990; 1.5 million refugees. The United States is talking about difficulty in dealing with less than 200,000 refugees from Cuba and Haiti. Yet, Jordan had to deal with 1.5 million refugees within a matter of weeks. We mean what we say when we talk about the need to alleviate the suffering of the Arab individual, and to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi children and people. [applause] Once again, I reaffirm the call to have in the future some form of Arab understanding—on the Gulf, Kuwaiti, and Iraqi levels—of what we have to put up with in this region in terms of discrimination, suppression, and pressures, which we are all facing in various forms. [passage omitted]

I tell our Arab brothers that we in Jordan always seek to have our inter-Arab relations, and Arab-world relations, in their best form. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Prime Minister, Delegation Return From Kuwait

NC1110202894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lebanese delegation under Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut from Kuwait tonight. Prime Minister al-Hariri said he expressed Lebanon's solidarity with Kuwait in the face of Iraqi threats and military buildup on the Kuwaiti border and its support for the steps taken by Kuwait to deal with the situation.

Hizballah Issues Statement on Jerusalem Incident

NC1210082494 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has issued a statement on Jerusalem's heroic operation carried out by the blessed intifadah's mujahidin.

The statement said: When a driver becomes a struggler to avenge his nation's dignity and honor, this is not a pretense because the Muhammadan nation's policy is jihad for the cause of God.

The statement added: It is very important for Warren Christopher to hear the sound of bullets himself to be certain that none of his tasks to legitimize the Zionist occupation is viable. If the enemy's foreign minister, Shim'on Peres, sees that there is no Judaism without Jerusalem, we believe that there is no Arabism or Islam without Jerusalem, and thus the war will be drawn out and confrontation will continue.

The Hizballah statement continued: If Christopher and the Zionists celebrated the latest achievements in favor of the Zionists, the lifting of the Gulf's boycott of the enemy, the mujahidin's bullets have disrupted that celebration and turned the elation of success and victory into distress.

The statement affirmed: Every Jew in Jerusalem is an usurpist enemy and a target for the mujahidin. Tourism in Jerusalem will only lead to jihad and fighting against God's enemies, as this young Egyptian hero did.

Hizballah's statement emphasized that the Jerusalem operation was not a radical act, as some people like to portray it, but a natural measure as long as Jerusalem remains occupied. It said that the Jerusalem operation shows that the Zionists' stay in Jerusalem will not be legalized but will continue to be regarded as occupation, despite the collusion of deviant people.

Hizballah Gunmen Attack Six SLA Positions

TA0910105094 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hizballah gunmen launched long-range attacks on six South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions inside the security zone early yesterday morning, prompting heavy exchanges in the region.

There were no casualties among IDF [Israel Defense Forces] or SLA troops, although two Lebanese civilians were lightly wounded as a result of the shelling.

Meanwhile, UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] intends to lodge a strong protest with the IDF over the firing of an anti-personnel cluster shell at a company headquarters of an Irish contingent during the fighting.

The Hizballah attacks were launched around 4:30 a.m. against three SLA posts in Wadi al-Saluqi, Bint Jubayl and 'Ali Tahr [name as published] hill range areas in the central sector, and a further three positions around al-Rayhan in the east.

Hizballah gunmen fired mortars, machine guns and RPG's [rocket-propelled grenades] at the positions in the central sector and mortars and antitank weapons at the posts around al-Rayhan.

IDF and SLA gunners retaliated with artillery, tank, mortar and machine-gun fire and, at one stage, helicopter gunships joined the fray in the exchanges in the central sector.

Reports from Lebanon said a man was lightly wounded in the village of Majdal Silm, and a woman was hurt in Bra'shit, both north of the zone, as a result of the shelling.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said that during the exchanges there were 12 incidents of firing close to UN positions in the area of Bra'shit and nearby villages.

Goksel said that in one of the cases a "flechette" shell, filled with metal darts, hit the compound of an Irish company headquarters outside of Bra'shit.

He said there were no injuries because the soldiers were already in bomb shelters. UN sources said that as far as they were aware, only the IDF had weapons capable of firing such shells.

"This is a very indiscriminate weapon and from the pattern of firing it appears to have been fired directly at the Irish position. We intend to lodge a strong protest with the IDF over this matter," said Goksel.

SLA Radio Confirms Attack

NC0810094594 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The terrorists have stepped up their attacks against the South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions. The SLA posts in Tallusah, Bra'shit, and (Shaqif al-Namal) in the western sector; and the SLA posts in al-Nabi Tahir, Kafr Tibnit, and Sujud in the eastern sector came under rocket attack early today. The terrorists also bombarded these areas with artillery from their positions in Tallat Mlita, al-Luwayzah, al-Ghanduriyah, and Kafr Nun. The SLA troops used the appropriate weapons to silence the source of fire.

Meanwhile, our military correspondent has reported that an Israeli army force yesterday spotted a terrorist group near Nahr al-Zahrani. Two Israeli helicopters fired several air-to-surface missiles at the group. There have been no immediate reports on the losses inflicted on the terrorists.

SLA Patrol Comes Under Lebanese Army Fire

NC0910113694 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol scouting the road leading to the Tumat Jazzin SLA post came under artillery fire from Lebanese army positions in Mashgharah this morning. This compelled the SLA artillery to open up to silence the sources of fire. Our correspondent says this attack caused no casualties among the SLA patrol members.

Israeli Forces Reinforce Blockade of Arnun

NC0910113794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that the Israeli forces at 0730 today strengthened their blockade of the town of Arnun with a new armor unit comprising several vehicles. The Israeli forces also bombarded the eastern part of the town with many shells. The shelling was accompanied by Israeli helicopter flights over Arnun and nearby valleys.

'Resistance' Attacks Position in South

NC1010070394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Resistance fighters launched a rocket and machine-gun attack on the Tallat al-Burj position which overlooks Kafr Tibnit at 2230 last night. The personnel manning the position and the resistance fighters clashed for 15 minutes.

Later the Israelis carried out an intensive bombardment against the outskirts of Kafr Tibnit and al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa. They also directed bursts of medium-caliber machine-gun fire against 'Ali al-Tahir and the army's deserted al-Nabatiyah barracks.

'Resistance' Claims Strike Against Lahd Forces

NC1110094994 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tension prevails in the south after early morning shelling of the al-Litani valley, the outskirts of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, the heights of Iqlim al-Tuffah, the Nab' al-Tasi valley, Wadi al-Saluqi, and Mazra'at al-Hamra'. At dawn today the Israeli forces deported 26 people from Kafr Hunah in Jazzin Province. The deportees visited Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, who stressed that Israel has no mercy on anyone. He asked the international public, the United Nations, and the Security Council to deter Israel from performing its aggressive acts and occupying the Lebanese territories.

The resistance issued a statement in which it announced that one of its groups today scored a direct hit on the Lahd forces' position in al-Shumariyah using rockets and artillery shells.

Israelis Resume Shelling of Southern Areas

NC1110125494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the editor's desk: This afternoon the Israeli forces resumed their bombardment of the villages of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Mazra'at al-Hamra', and the al-Litani river basin with 120-mm mortar fire from their positions in al-Zaffatah. The violent shelling is continuing.

Reportage on Israeli Deportation of Residents

Buwayz, Birri React

NC1110141794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A new issue cropped up today to occupy the leaders of the country when Israel at dawn deported 26 residents of Kafr Hunah in the Jazzin District. A delegation representing the deportees today visited a number of leaders and explained the circumstances of their deportation. Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri, who received the delegation, described the deportation as a new Marj al-Zuhur. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who met with Speaker Birri today, called on the United Nations and the cosponsors of the peace conference to shoulder their responsibilities. He noted that the ambassadors of the big powers will be summoned to discuss this matter. [passage omitted]

SLA Reportedly Allows Repatriation

NC1210070594 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Voice of the South Radio has announced that the South Lebanese Army [SLA] has allowed 26 people, who were deported from their town of Kafr Hunah yesterday, to return anytime they wish. The radio said that the aim of the measure was to give the deportees a message, to be conveyed to state officials, about resistance operations.

The Kafr Hunah deportees had announced that they would begin a sit-in outside the United Nations office in Beirut until they were repatriated.

SLA Denies Deportation

NC1210094994 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] With regards to Beirut media's news reports yesterday on the expulsion of a number of citizens from Kafr Hunah to the north of the border area, a responsible military source in the South Lebanese Army [SLA] has denied all these reports to our correspondent.

The source clarified that a delegation from the town of Kafr Hunah submitted a request to the SLA command to allow it to inform officials in Beirut of the Hizballah militia's acts in the area. The delegation also requested that it be allowed to explain the problems caused by Hizballah militia to civilians by planting explosive charges on public roads and harassing farmers of the town and those who head for Dayr al-Mazra'ah, in addition to shelling the villages there indiscriminately. In this respect, our correspondent recalls a recent detonation of an explosive charge as a civilian car passed near the town's cemetery, wounding two civilians.

The source told our correspondent that all reports coming from Beirut on the expulsion are untrue.

Deportees Taken to Batir Crossing

NC1210124394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese Army trucks have transported the Kafr Hunah deportees to the Batir Crossing, from where they are scheduled to return to their town.

The deportees earlier visited Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, who told them that Lebanon will not read the messages before the army deploys on the international border. He referred to contacts made at various levels that led to the return of the deportees and noted that the town residents represent the resistance movement.

Lahd Views Syrian Minister's Interview

NC1210095094 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] South Lebanese Army [SLA] commander General Antoine Lahd has said that Lebanon's problem lies in its weakness. He added: We in the border area are not weak but it is the Lebanese state that is weak. Imagine what would happen if our Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz made a statement to the Israeli television as Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' did. I am sure that if this happened it would be the end of the world or a revolt would take place. All Lebanese are regarded as treacherous, agents, and collaborators with the Israeli enemy, but we allow al-Shar' to do what he pleases and talk to whomever he likes and his sins are forgiven while we are not permitted to have dealings with the state of Israel. Lahd was addressing a ceremony yesterday on the opening of a club built by the Civilian Administration Department in Shwayya. [passage omitted]

Minister Orders Inquiry Into AUB Riots

NC1110174994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Michel al-Murr has instructed Major General Rafiq al-Hasan, director general of the Internal Security Forces, to conduct a full inquiry into the incident that took place yesterday between the Internal Security Forces and students at the American University of Beirut [AUB].

Minister al-Murr pointed out that the Internal Security Forces' duty is to protect individuals and property at any educational or other institution. He noted that the officials present at the university campus should have consulted and sought instructions from the Interior Ministry before taking any action, particularly since the Internal Security Forces are not a party to the dispute between the university administration and the students.

Minister al-Murr emphasized that things are calm at the university and that the Internal Security Forces are doing their job according to instructions.

Lebanese-Syrian Force Arrests Smugglers

NC1010201194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A force of 350 officers and men comprising elements from the Ba'labakk Gendarmerie Battalion under the command of Staff Colonel Samir al-Subh, Syrian troops under the command of Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali Safi, and Lebanese Army troops under the command of Lt. Col. Husayn al-Laqis raided the villages of Hawsh al-Sayyadah and al-Sharqi in al-Hirmil and Ra's Ba'labakk areas.

Sixty people, including wanted individuals and smugglers, were arrested. Several combat rifles and bombs, quantities of ammunition, pistols, grenades, two truck loads of electrical appliances, and some contraband cigarettes were seized.

Christopher Comments on al-Asad Meeting, Departs

JN1110163694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and U.S. Middle East Peace Coordinator Dennis Ross at al-Rawdah Palace at 1130 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Walid al-Mu'allim, Syrian Ambassador in Washington, and Christopher Ross, U.S. Ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

In a statement to journalists following his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad today, Christopher said: I met the president for three and a half hours, during which we held good and constructive talks. It is believed that the two sides are very serious. Christopher also said: There are gaps between the two sides, but I feel that they are moving in the right direction. The U.S. secretary of state also expressed the belief that the two sides are committed to reaching a comprehensive peace and that there is hope they will do so. Christopher added that he spoke to the president about the situation in the Gulf region, and said: As you know, President al-Asad has issued a statement in which he condemns Saddam Husayn's threats to Kuwait and supports the Kuwaiti people.

Christopher left Damascus this evening after a brief visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', several senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Media Views Possibilities of Christopher Visit

Commitment to Peace Noted

JN1010232094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Oct 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Todays' papers comment on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region on a new mission to resume his efforts to give the peace process a push forward, particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks:

In its commentary under the headline "What is Substantive in the Peace Process," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The U.S. Administration has recently been stressing that it will pursue its positive and constructive role to achieve progress in the peace process and to reactivate the efforts being exerted to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This administration has also stressed the importance and effectiveness of the Syrian role and praised Syria's serious stand toward achieving a true, just, and comprehensive peace based on the requirements and pillars of this peace.

The paper adds: In order to succeed, Christopher's tour must be based on what is essential and substantial in the peace process, something which was basically emphasized by the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the U.S. initiative, which calls for ending the occupation and restoring the land in return for peace.

In this regard, the paper notes: He who refuses to withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon does not want to achieve peace. Neither does he want the international efforts, particularly the U.S. efforts, to produce results which would lead to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN says: Syria has responded to all the requirements of this process, in terms of policies, stands, and commitments. It has proved its great dedication to the peace process, has considered, and is still considering peace a strategic option, and has proposed the principle of full withdrawal for full peace. Syria has nothing to hide. It translates its words into deeds, and it is true to its peace efforts. This truthfulness is based on Syria's commitment to the constants of the peace process to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of the international legitimacy and on ending injustice and occupation.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria is a true peace advocate. This peace must not be monopolized in favor of one party against the other. The Golan is a Syrian Arab land, and regardless of how long it lasts, occupation will never be able to obliterate the historical, geographical, and political facts of the Golan. The Golan people must return to it, and it must be returned in full to the mother homeland, Syria. This must also apply to southern Lebanon in implementation of Resolution No. 425.

Under the headlines "Christopher's Tour and the Israeli Stand," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Despite the fact that Secretary Christopher has made no statements, the U.S. Administration's announcement a few days ago, during Faruq al-Shar's presence in Washington, means that this administration is determined to continue work to achieve progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

AL-BA'TH adds: The U.S. Administration's announcement on Syria's serious contribution toward the success of the peace process is considered strong proof that Damascus has responded fully to the peace process, and that it has provided all that is possible for this in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

The paper notes: Over the past few days, observers were unanimous that the problem actually lies with the Israeli rulers, because they have continued their policy of procrastination and maneuvering, and consequently, they are evading the requirements of peace.

The paper says: Observers yesterday stressed that the difficulty Christopher will be faced with during his current tour, as was the case in the previous tours, lies in Israel's refusal to abide by any of the resolutions of the international legitimacy, particularly full withdrawal from the Golan. The difficulty is not in Syria's position, which has confirmed its peace strategy since the Madrid conference.

The paper adds: It has become clear to all concerned with the peace process in the region that Syria is the cornerstone of this process, and that the attempts to ignore this fact could mean that the region will continue to be exposed to all possibilities.

The paper wonders: As long as the requirements for the success of the peace process are clear, providing that this process is based on these requirements, then why this Israeli procrastination and continued refusal to abide by the resolutions of the international legitimacy?

Concluding its comment, AL-BA'TH says: Syria has clearly and accurately stressed its concept of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This frank and clear stand was received with satisfaction and interest by the entire international community.

Success Said Depending on Israel

JN0910174294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due to begin his Middle East tour today in a new effort to advance the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

President Clinton announced in front of the Syrian foreign minister that making substantial progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks will take full priority and that he is committed to realizing this vital objective.

It is clear that Syria's determination to realize just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East is clear to all. Over the past days and weeks, Syria has demonstrated its eagerness to achieve peace on the condition that this peace should be coupled with justice and should lead to the restoration of right and the elimination of all aspects of injustice, oppression, and usurpation, led by the occupation of the Golan and south Lebanon.

In fact, the divergence between the Syrian and Israeli positions, or the gap that the U.S. and Israeli officials speak about, is represented in Israel's failure, thus far, to commit itself to the implementation of Security Council resolutions and to withdraw its forces from the Golan and south Lebanon to the 4 June 1967 borders. Syria is prepared to implement the international resolutions in full. It is known that the U.S. initiative viewed these resolutions as the basis of the peace process. Bridging that gap and eliminating that divergence depends mainly on Israel and its clear and decisive announcement of its intention to fully withdraw from the occupied Golan and south Lebanon.

U.S. Secretary Warren Christopher's mission is extremely important and international quarters have pinned a great deal of hope on it, but rendering this mission successful requires Israel's pledge to full withdrawal. Without this pledge, the peace process will not realize the aspired progress and the Syrian and Lebanese tracks will continue to face a stalemate. Syria wants to restore all the land and it has repeatedly told the concerned quarters that it will never accept any bargaining over the Golan, that it will not relinquish south Lebanon, and that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are completely parallel.

The Golan is a dear part of the homeland, and Syria has no intention to relinquish an inch of land. As is known, Syria proposes full peace in return for full Israeli withdrawal. As all admit, peace is the best guarantee of security. Furthermore, there is no other real guarantee than peace.

Syria will not spare any effort to render the mission of U.S. Secretary Christopher a success, but realizing peace depends now, as in the past, on a substantial change in the Israeli position toward full withdrawal and implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy in letter and spirit.

Requirements for Progress Viewed

JN0910132394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Oct 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the Israeli position in light of the new tour of the region by the U.S. secretary of state, saying: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's mission is highly important. International quarters have pinned great hopes on it. Nonetheless, rendering this mission a success requires a clear Israeli pledge for complete withdrawal. Unless such a pledge is obtained, the peace process will not achieve the required progress. Moreover, talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks will remain deadlocked. Syria is interested in restoring all its territories. It has repeatedly made it clear to all concerned parties that it cannot accept any bargaining over the Golan, that it cannot abandon southern Lebanon, and also that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are indivisible. The Golan is a cherished part of the homeland. Some 150,000 displaced Syrians are awaiting the achievement of peace so that they may return home and restore their properties. Syria is not planning to let them down, or to abandon a single inch of its territory.

As is well known, Syria is offering full peace in exchange for complete Israeli withdrawal. Everybody realizes that peace is the best security guarantee. As a matter of fact, there can be no true guarantee other than peace.

The newspaper TISHRIN concludes by saying: Syria has not spared any effort to render U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's mission a success. Nonetheless, the achievement of peace, as has always been the case, is contingent upon a substantive change in the Israeli policy. Such a policy change must endorse complete withdrawal, and allow for the implementation of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions in letter and spirit.

Al-Shar' Holds 'Constructive' Session with Clinton

JN0710181594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Bill Clinton met with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the White House this morning. He received from al-Shar' a message from President Hafiz al-Asad about ways to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region and Syria's commitment to the bases that launched the peace process in accordance with international legitimacy and UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace formula.

They explored ways to propel the peace process forward, with President Clinton reaffirming the United States commitment to a just and comprehensive peace. The U.S. President emphasized that the realization of that goal was one of his administration's priorities. The United States will pursue its efforts to achieve substantive and appreciable progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks before the end of the year, Mr. Clinton added.

For his part, the foreign minister restated Syria's genuine interest in seeing the peace process make progress, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. He laid out Syria's position as incorporated in UN resolutions stipulating Israel's withdrawal from the entire occupied Golan and south Lebanon in exchange for a commitment to the objective requirements of peace.

Mr. Clinton asked al-Shar' to convey his best wishes to President Hafiz al-Asad.

The meeting was attended by U.S. Vice President Al Gore; Secretary of State Warren Christopher; Anthony Lake, Clinton's national security adviser; Dennis Ross, the peace process coordinator; and Martin Indyk, the U.S. president's assistant for Middle East affairs. The session was also attended by Walid al- Mu'allim, the Syrian ambassador in Washington.

Mr. al-Shar' later took questions from journalists assembled on the White House lawn. The foreign minister told them that he had had a constructive session with President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, the secretary of state, and other American officials. We looked into ways to advance the peace process and Syria is seeking peace, Mr. al-Shar' said. President Clinton and his aides voiced a U.S. commitment to carry on their efforts on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, al-Shar' added. He stressed that Syria was committed to the objective requirements of the peace process. Al-Shar' said it will not be possible for Israel to make peace with Syria before it carries out a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Regional stability and security will also prove impossible without peace with Syria, al-Shar' declared.

Holds Press Briefing

JN0710233494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has held a news conference in Washington. It was attended by a large crowd of journalists and correspondents of international news agencies and Arab, U.S, and international television networks.

It was also attended by a number of Arab ambassadors in Washington, university professors, and researchers in studies and strategy institutes specializing in Middle East affairs.

The foreign minister said Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan Heights is basic for realizing peace in the Middle East. Al-Shar' added that concerning land, no one bargains over his land. He said: As long as there is any kind of occupation, the other elements and requisites of peace cannot be realized.

He said the Syrian commitment to the peace process should not be questioned, and added that he had delivered a message to U.S. President Bill Clinton from President Hafiz al-Asad, in which he emphasized Syria's commitment to the peace process. He spoke about several measures that have so far been taken by Syria within this context.

Al-Shar' said: President Clinton emphasized anew the U.S. open and firm pledge to continue U.S. peace efforts. He added: Without full withdrawal from the Golan there will be no real peace in the region, and we cannot accept partial withdrawal because this will not lead to real peace. We want full withdrawal in return for full peace.

He said: Syria will not participate in the economic conference that will be held in Morocco at the end of this month in which Israel will take part. Syria will not participate in any other regional meetings with Israel until a comprehensive settlement is reached and until peace is realized in the region.

He said: No businessmen or big companies will invest in our region without seeing a real and comprehensive peace. The Casablanca conference will be a waste of time and money.

He said: We will not participate in the economic conference out of our eagerness to achieve real regional cooperation and development. He said this conference will be more effective if it is held after the realization of peace in the region.

The minister added that the peace formula should be full peace in return for full withdrawal. He asked: Does anyone accept that his land remains under occupation? He said: Most Israelis, if not all of them, believe that without Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan Heights there will be no peace with Syria. Many of them also believe that without peace with Syria there will be no peace in the region.

On the nature of peace Syria proposed, al-Shar' said: It is a peace that ensures regional stability in a manner that realizes the aspirations of the people in the region.

Al-Shar' emphasized that Israel was responsible for the wars witnessed by the region, and said: UN reports say that Israel was the one that started the aggression and military actions.

On the timetable of withdrawal from the occupied Golan, al-Shar' said: Withdrawal should not take much time, and delaying the withdrawal will delay other peace steps.

Jewish Community Leader on Exit Visas

JN1010212494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Yusuf Jajati, deputy head of the Musawi sect [Jewish community] in Syria, has said that all members of the Musawi sect in Syria have obtained exit visas. In an interview with the London-based AL-HAYAH newspaper, published today, he called on Israel to withdraw from all the Arab Syrian Golan territory it occupied in 1967.

He added: There is no political problem for the Syrian Jews. Consequently, we reject the interference of any party in our internal affairs. We feel that we have become a commodity in the hands of the West and foreign organizations. We have not asked any party to meddle in our affairs.

Jajati stressed that the position of the 13,000 Jewish settlers in the Golan is illogical, that the Golan is not their land, and that they are occupiers who should leave the Golan.

He said that Ibrahim Hamra, the supreme rabbi of the Musawi sect, decided to stay in the United States to look after the Syrian Jewish community there. He said that some 20 Syrian Jews returned to Syria from the United States due to the hard living conditions there compared to their former living situation.

Golan Said 'Backbone' of Peace Process

JN0810094894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Oct 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial headlined "Full Israeli Withdrawal," TISHRIN says: No political issue has drawn as much interest as the Golan issue, which is the backbone of the peace process. Therefore, it is only natural that all of the current efforts, moves, and contacts aimed to boost the peace process focus on the Golan. This is confirmed by the fact that no peace with Syria is possible without Israel's total withdrawal from the Golan, and that regional security and stability cannot be achieved without peace with Syria.

TISHRIN indicates Syria's genuine and serious stand on the peace process. The paper says: Since the start of the peace process, Syria has adhered to a just and comprehensive peace. Syria has also intensified its peace efforts, for it considers peace a strategic option and a real objective. This has placed Israel in a quandary, if not a dilemma. Israel's deceptive methods do not fool anybody anymore, because the road to peace is clear and needs nothing but actions and serious steps on the ground.

TISHRIN says that the real road to peace must start with ending the Israeli occupation of the Golan and southern Lebanon and complete commitment to the bases and requirements of peace.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The will of the international legitimacy has made it clear that safeguarding the peace process from its current stalemate will begin with an explicit and unequivocal statement announcing public acceptance of total withdrawal, renouncing phased settlements and partial and separate deals, and giving up the policy of evading the bases and requirements of peace. Assertions that the United States will continue efforts to achieve substantial and tangible progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks should focus on the substantive and basic issue represented by the need to effect total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

In its editorial today, AL-THAWRAH says: The pace of Israeli statements has changed significantly between last week and this week, thus reflecting contradictory stands on the peace process. The different pace and contradictory statements reflect a state on the ground related to current regional developments, represented by the desperately deteriorating Arab situation.

AL-THAWRAH indicates that last week the Israeli body politic was quite evidently besieged, being asked by the world and the United States to accurately define its concept of the peace process and the depth, extent, and mechanism of withdrawal from the Golan. Therefore, Israeli leaders made irrational, threatening statements ahead Christopher's tour to ease the Israeli opposition, and raised the issue of a referendum on withdrawal from the Golan.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Hence the gravity of the situation in light of Israel's use of this card to defy Syria and Lebanon and to blackmail the United States. At any rate, nothing in this will weaken Syria or make it change its principled, constant, and public stand on the peace process. This stand is specifically based on comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. Anything else is completely rejected, whether the boycott is lifted or not, and whether the Labor government goes or remains.

Israeli Policy Viewed, Positions Reiterated

JN0810173294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1237 GMT 8 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israeli officials insist on making a host of statements prior to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour. These statements depict Israel as though it were meeting the requirements of peace and simultaneously talk about a large gap between the Syrian and Israeli positions.

As usual, the Israeli officials have vied with one another to make contradictory statements, in a clear sign that Israel has not abandoned its tricky methods or its obstructive policy which it has followed since the peace process was unleashed. As the date of Christopher's new tour approaches, observers wonder: Is it not high time to end Israel's trickery and procrastination, which is responsible for wasting all this time and all these efforts to no avail? The answer stems from the developments that followed Christopher's recent tour; the picture became clearer, and the U.S. Administration became confident of the parties' true positions, their vision about peace, and the steps needed to achieve peace.

Through President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria stressed its readiness to discuss all steps to bring about a breakthrough in the peace process and achieve the sought objective. Christopher himself sensed both the seriousness of the Syrian position and the positive Syrian efforts designed to champion the international and U.S. sponsor's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. It is clear that such a peace is a strategic option in Syria's policy that adheres to the international legitimacy and stems from the bases of the Madrid conference, the UN principles, and the land-for-peace formula.

In his comprehensive pan-Arab address to the People's Assembly in the opening ceremony of its sixth legislative term, President al-Asad reiterated Syria's consistent and declared positions, which are known to the entire world. In their entirety, these positions constituted a solid ground for the firm Syria credibility characterizing Syria's peace approaches. These approaches emanate from adherence to international legitimacy and its resolutions.

It is now known that the just and comprehensive peace Syria seeks, in harmony with the international community's will, is a strategic option, of interest to all, and an international need. It is also known that Syria has nothing to hide; its positions on both peace and its requirements are clear, as are its positions on the territories, rights, and full Israeli withdrawal. Syria does not bargain on any territory or sell out any right. It adheres to international legitimacy as the path leading to the sought after just and comprehensive peace.

Moreover, Syria is honest in its endeavors to achieve peace. It has contributed to rendering the peace efforts a success. Syria, however, joined the peace process and opened the way for its success only to regain its territory and obtain all its national and pan-Arab rights. Israel should be aware of this fact, especially since Secretary Christopher knows this position and realizes that his efforts will not be successful unless Israel is ready to meet the requirements of peace, led by totally withdrawing from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and western al-Biqa' as well as evacuating the Israeli troops, settlers, and settlements to the 4 June 1967 borders. There will be no peace under continued occupation; nor will there be a compromise on the territories or sell out any right or an iota of land.

Israel can no longer involve Christopher's mission in issues that are far from the substance of peace. If Israel insists on its obstructive positions, we will only see a new chapter of the game of wasting time. If Israel, however, accepts the bases of peace and meets its requirements, led by full withdrawal, there will be an opportunity to render successful the U.S. efforts designed to give momentum to the peace process toward achieving the sought objective; namely, a just, comprehensive, and durable peace.

Desire for Peace Reiterated, Israel Blamed

JN1010232994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 10 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again, chief U.S. diplomat Warren Christopher returns to the region on a new tour aimed at pushing the peace process forward after almost three years of stumbling. Mr. Christopher's tour comes in the wake of U.S. President Bill Clinton's confirmation that the United States is committed to a just and comprehensive peace and that achieving this goal is a top priority for the U.S. Administration.

Syria has reiterated its genuine desire to advance the peace process, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, in order to achieve a real breakthrough toward the aspired peace that is based on justice and relevant UN resolutions.

The fact that everyone has come to know, including the American sponsor, is that Syria is honest in its efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace. It has favorably responded to all efforts that were and are still made to attain this goal. Peace was and is still a strategy adopted by Syria for more than 20 years. It has responded to every international effort aimed at establishing peace based on justice and UN resolutions. Despite all the concrete Syrian steps and all confirmations by Damascus on its commitment to the peace process and its principles as well as the requirements of the sought peace, Israel is still demanding more steps that prove Syria's desire to make this peace. Israel's insistence on what it calls more confidence-building steps has absolutely no justification. When Syria declares its desire for peace, it means what it says; it does not make a pledge it cannot honor. Syria has promised to make a peace of the brave in public and before the entire international community. It is aware that peace has requirements, but these requirements should not be imposed on one party while the other party is relieved of them, as Israel is trying to do concerning security arrangements, for example. Such arrangements should be an equal right for both parties, and not exclusive to Israel. We dare say that Arabs, with Syria in the forefront, need such arrangements more than Israel does, because they were subjected to aggression for over half a century.

The Israeli demands and conditions are increasing day after day at a time when Israel has not yet declared its readiness to meet the actual requirements of peace, that is, full withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon. The issue of withdrawal is not subject to bargaining because Syria does will compromise a single iota of its national soil and because the whole world, including the American sponsor, supports this stand, which is based on rights, international resolutions, and a U.S. pledge made before the Madrid Conference.

A just and comprehensive peace is a noble goal for Syria, which it seeks to attain on the basis of restoring its land and rights. This is the only peace that can realize security and stability. Any impossible Israeli conditions would only distance us from this peace and this opportune chance to make it, and waste more time and effort. While embarking on his talks with the Israeli officials today, Secretary Christopher knows which party is working for peace and which party is still placing hurdles and impossible conditions along the path of this peace. Consequently, he knows where U.S. efforts should be directed to overcome the difficulties that still obstruct any real progress in the peace process.

Press Urges End to Israeli 'Maneuvering'

JN1110094394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Oct 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH newspaper speaks about the methods of Israeli officials in dealing with the peace process in light of peace efforts. It says they all agree not to fully and unconditionally implement UN resolutions and the initiatives based on the land-for-peace principle.

The newspaper adds: The Israeli military arrogance is more prevalent than rationality, which rejects the occupation of other's land by force and at the same time emphasizes that aggression only generates wars and the repercussions do not only endanger only one party.

The newspaper says: Syria has great confidence in international efforts, and the hopes of reaching a just and comprehensive peace continue to receive support from Arab Syria so that these hopes will become a real fact. The newspaper emphasizes: This confidence and these hopes do not mean ignoring any part of our right to our land and national soil.

The newspaper believes it is difficult for Israel to convince the world that its security is attached to the continued occupation of our land and usurpation of our rights. It is also difficult for Israel to continue its defiance of the international resolutions.

The newspaper concludes: No one should imagine that Syria is in hurry to achieve solutions. We say that we are not in hurry if this process will lead to the loss of an iota of our national soil.

TISHRIN speaks about Israeli ambitions in the Golan and refutes Israel's allegations that the Golan has always been a source of threat to its security and a hotbed of tension, violence, and instability.

The newspaper says Israel based its claims concerning the Golan on deception, forging history, and overturning facts. The paper reviews the military situation in the Golan since 1949 until 1967, and emphasizes that Israel had always been the party that started the aggressions against the secure inhabitants of the area. This totally refutes the Israeli allegation that the Golan is a source of threat to Israel's security.

The newspaper says: The Zionist expansionist ambitions toward the Golan continue, and all Israeli pretexts and allegations are baseless.

The newspaper emphasizes that there will be no peace in the region without full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the other occupied territories. It calls on Rabin's government to provide evidence that it actually wants peace by ending the Israeli occupation, withdrawing fully from the Golan and southern Lebanon, and relinquishing the Zionist aggressive expansionist ambitions in Arab territories. Anything other than this, will be part of the policy of maneuvering, deception, and playing with words.

The newspaper emphasizes: There will be no peace with occupation and no stability with injustice. By this, we say that the road with Syria has become clear.

In its commentary, AL-THAWRAH newspaper says: Deriving strength from separate deals has become an Israeli style to evade peace requisites and its basic principles, led by full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

The newspaper goes on to say: Full withdrawal is basic for real progress on the path of just and comprehensive peace.

It adds: What Israel is doing is merely obstructing the peace process in a continuous attempt to draw it to the Israeli concepts of a settlement.

The newspaper believes that progress in the peace process can only come through Israel's acceptance of the real peace requisites, led by effecting a full withdrawal and abandoning the policy of maneuvering and procrastinating.

The newspaper says: The U.S. efforts, which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is making during his new tour, should aim at ending this Israeli maneuvering and procrastination in heeding the real peace principles. If he succeeds, the road will be open for just and comprehensive peace.

Israel Blamed for Obstacles, 'U.S. Efforts' Urged

JN1110233394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, currently on a new tour of the region to push the peace process forward, knows that Syria has been doing everything in its power to make the peace process successful. Similarly, the U.S. Administration stresses its commitment to bringing about a just and comprehensive peace and asserts that such a peace will not prevail without Syria and that Syria is the key to peace in the region.

The U.S. Administration, as well as the international community, is aware of Syria's position on and understanding of peace. Syria understands peace as being honorable and courageous, ensuring the rights, security, and honor of all parties without preferring one party to another. Israel wants to foil this trend by making impossible demands of the peace process. The international community sees no justification for Israel's demand that Syria prove its desire for peace, especially since Syria has declared that it is ready to meet the requirements of the desired, complete peace in return for Israel's total withdrawal, including the removal of the Israeli settlements from the Golan and the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation's forces from the Golan and the occupied Arab territories to the lines that existed before 4 June 1967.

In return, Israel has not yet declared its commitment to implementing Security Council resolutions calling for a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan. Every time they tackle this issue, Israeli rulers and officials talk about a partial withdrawal, which they know Syria rejects categorically and that Syria will never bargain over any of its rights or a single iota of its occupied soil. Syria does not seek peace from a weak position. It seeks it in light of rights, justice, self-confidence, and confidence in the future.

Moreover, Israel makes security demands, as if they were reserved for it, though both parties have an equal right to such security arrangements. Preferring one party to another in this issue or other issues will only lead to an unfair peace deal, and consequently, an untrue peace, not to mention the Israeli rulers' announcements from time to time that they will hold a referendum on withdrawal from the Golan. These announcements violate the binding resolutions of the international legitimacy, as well as Syria's sovereignty over its national soil.

Therefore, everyone knows that the gap does not only exist between Syrian and Israeli positions, but also between Israel's position and that of the international community, which has adopted binding resolutions, to which Israel still refuses to declare its commitment.

This Israeli position will waste more efforts and more time, in addition to the efforts it has wasted since the Madrid conference three years ago. Consequently, this Israeli position will only obstruct peace and weaken plans to achieve it in the region. Thus, all positions, intentions, and plans have become clear to the whole world. In other words, the international community knows well that Syria is seeking peace and working for it and that Israel is hampering the peace process. Therefore, the international community knows well where U.S. efforts to remove obstacles from the way to peace should concentrate.

Israel Blamed for 'Gaps' in Positions

JN1210080094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 12 Oct 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial entitled "When Will the Gaps Be Eliminated," AL-BA'TH newspaper says: Gaps continue to exist between the positions of Syria and Israel, and this constitutes a difficult obstacle for the peace process to overcome in trying to reach its aspired objectives. The points of disagreement are not only on the Syrian track but also on the Lebanese track.

AL-BA'TH refers to the obstacles Israel has set in the way of the peace process, such as the idea of partial withdrawal from the Golan, the withdrawal timetable, security arrangements, and normalization, in addition to its set priorities, the most important of which is to avoid at all costs an open announcement of full withdrawal from the Golan. Israel wants normalization before withdrawal, wants to work under the slogan Majdal Shams First—just like Gaza-Jericho First—and wants a partial withdrawal over many long years.

AL-BA'TH adds: As for the Lebanese track, instead of implementing Resolution 425, the Rabin government is procrastinating and delaying and even escalating its aggression against the southern villages.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The gaps can be bridged, if not removed, if Israel commits itself to the peace process in letter and spirit because this is the only way to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

During his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Christopher yesterday, President al-Asad emphasized Syria's commitment to the principles and bases of the peace process. Israel only needs to commit itself to this process and accept what it calls for. With this, the road to peace will be opened.

In its editorial entitled "The Responsibility for the Gap and the Necessary Action," AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that everyone knows that Syria is not responsible for the gaps and problems in the peace process, but that it is Israel that continues to adhere to its policy of procrastination and obstruction by refusing to commit itself to full withdrawal from the Golan, south Lebanon, and western al-Biqa'.

AL-THAWRAH adds: In all stages, as now, it has been clear to the U.S. officials and observers that real progress in the peace process cannot be made without Israel's clear and open announcement of its readiness to withdraw from the occupied territories. Such an announcement will be the real beginning for serious engagement in work for establishing a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH says: Israel's insistence on keeping important parts of the Syrian and Lebanese territories, under the pretext of safeguarding its security, conflicts with the international resolutions and departs from the logic of peace.

The facts are these: The Arabs are the victims of Israeli aggression, Israel is the party that threatens peace, and Israel's weapons are what endanger the region. The Arabs are the ones who need security guarantees.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: The first step leading to just and comprehensive peace is full withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon, which represents the real grounds for a peace that preserves rights and dignity. So, will the U.S. efforts succeed in placing the peace process on the right track?

In its editorial, TISHRIN addresses the gaps between the Syrian and Israeli positions on the Middle East peace process. It says: Syria has clearly committed itself to these resolutions and to working for advancing the peace process and realizing a just and comprehensive solution in the region, while Israel continues its attempts to circumvent these resolutions and their contents.

TISHRIN Says: The crux of the problems is that Syria is determined to eliminate all results of the 1967 aggression and to restore the whole of the Golan, while Israel has not abandoned its expansionist design yet, under security pretexts, although the Security Council resolutions are clear and plain and do not allow for the annexation of territories by force, changing their features, or constructing settlements on them. These resolutions call for the withdrawal of the occupiers.

TISHRIN emphasizes: Syria will never relinquish an iota of its soil, and Israel's attempts to circumvent the Security Council resolutions have stripped the peace process of its momentum and its vigor, and raised doubts in the occupied Arab territories, escalating tension there.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria has always coupled peace with justice. Justice necessitates that the Arab territories and rights return to their owners. Without this comprehensive peace, it is impossible for calm and stability to prevail in the Middle East.

Gulf Decision on Lifting Boycott Criticized

JN0710064994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Zuhayr 'Aqil, head of the Israel boycott office, has said that the decision to boycott Israel was an Arab decision made by the Arab League. He said that rescinding the boycott or making any amendment to it should only be done by a collective Arab decision.

In a statement today, 'Aqil explained that the Arab boycott of Israel is an indivisible whole. He said: Ending any part of or any party to the boycott will greatly weaken the implementation of the Arab boycott. He said he believed the Gulf decision to lift the secondary and tertiary boycott of Israel is a violation of the Arab consensus and coordination.

Afghanistan

President Rabbani Announces Readiness To Resign

LD1010183194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] President of Afghanistan Borhanoddin Rabbani has announced that he is prepared to resign on condition that this retreat will not be exploited by his rivals.

Reports of 17 Killed in Opposition Rocket Attack

LD1010144094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 0230 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] As many as 17 people were martyred yesterday when the militia heavily fired rockets into residential areas in Kabul. The general command of Kabul City garrison reported to a military correspondent of the BAKHTAR Information Agency that yesterday morning and afternoon Golboddin's militia fired 62 rockets and mortar shells into the residential areas of Kabul City. As a result of this savage attack, 17 defenseless residents of Kabul were martyred and 38 others were injured. The wounded were quickly taken to a hospital and treated. On top of the heavy loss of life, as a result of the militia's rocket attack, a market and four motor vehicles were set ablaze.

Hezbe-e Eslami Claim Capture of Governorate

LD0810125894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Clashes are continuing between the warring sides in the north, center, and west of Afghanistan.

A Central News Unit report from Kabul, quoting Afghan Government sources, mentions that during the past few days the combined forces of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and General Dostam suffered heavy casualties in the (Yelgung) district of Konduz province.

Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami sources said today that the Coordination Council forces managed to capture the governorate office of the Chahr Dara in Konduz province. They [Hezb-e Eslami sources] also say they achieved victories in heavy clashes with President Rabbani's supporters in Ghor province. [passage omitted]

Islamic Army Shoots Down Militia Aircraft

LD0710202494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An (?AN-33) type passenger plane belonging to (?Dostam), painted in similar color to the Ariana Afghan Airlines planes, carrying 50 militiamen, was shot down and destroyed last night over the Dasht-e Saqawa area by heavy ground fire from the Islamic Army.

A relevant source reported to the BAKHTAR Information Agency that this plane was engaged in transporting the Dostam and Mazari militiamen from the north to Dasht-e Saqawa [words indistinct].

This plane was used for the transport of weapons and other military objectives. Dostam himself used this plane for transportation purposes.

State Foreign Affairs Minister Meets Butrus-Ghali

LD0810191994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The best wishes of esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president, and the gratitude of the Islamic State of Afghanistan were conveyed to the UN secretary general.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported to the BAKHTAR Information Agency that esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state in foreign affairs, who is in New York for participation in the 49th session of the UN General Assembly, met with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali at the UN headquarters on 6 October. During the meeting, esteemed Dr. Lafra'i conveyed the best wishes of the president and the gratitude of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to the UN secretary general and praised the efforts of the UN and Mr. Mahmud Mestiri, head of the special delegation of this organization for Afghanistan. He gave an explanation on the activities of the commission for convening the Loya Jerga, which was formed as a result of a resolution of the High Islamic Council in Herat.

Noting the formation of a Council of Consultants, which has been convened in Quetta as an upshot of Mr. Mahmud Mestiri's efforts, esteemed Dr. Lafra'i said that the gathering was formed without the consultation and cooperation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and of main political parties. Placing emphasis on the necessity for the coordination and [word indistinct] of the efforts of the head of the UN's peace delegation, the minister of state in foreign affairs added that such a coordination would bring about effective results. [passage indistinct]

According to another report in the series of his meetings, Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i met with [name indistinct], deputy head of the Red Cross and [word indistinct] of UN's Development Program, and Mr. Hansen, UN undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs, on 27 September, and spoke to them about the reconstruction of the country and need for the expansion of this organization's aid to Afghanistan. The minister of state in foreign affairs emphasized the need for [words indistinct] humanitarian assistance to the residents of Kabul.

Bangladesh

Fundamentalists Lay 'Siege' on Government Complex

BK1210050694 Hong Kong AFP in English 0359 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Oct 12 (AFP)—Police Wednesday [12 October] barricaded roads leading to the high-security government secretariat complex as a 13-party Muslim fundamentalist and right-wing alliance laid siege to the complex.

The Combined Action Council (CAC), which is demanding Prime Minister Khaleda Zia step down, has a 11-point list of demands pushing for stricter enforcement of Islamic laws.

Among the demands are calls for the trial of "infidels," including self-exiled Bangladeshi feminist writer Taslima Nasreen who is now in Europe, and the enactment of an anti-blasphemy law.

CAC activists were seen at different points trying to enforce the day-long siege of the complex, which houses most government ministries.

Traffic moved slowly to the nearby downtown Motijheel business district.

Security was beefed up in Dhaka and police were deployed throughout the city, but offices, shops and businesses cautiously opened their doors.

Zia, who is now on an official visit to Malaysia, recently said that her government would complete its full five-year tenure and polls would be held on schedule under a democratic government in 1996.

The opposition parties, which have been boycotting parliament since March, are seeking a constitutional amendment that would allow new elections to take place under a non-partisan interim government.

They allege that fair polls are impossible under Zia's government. Their demands have been rejected by the government as "unconstitutional" and they have proposed strengthening the election commission.

Meanwhile, a two-member advance team of the Commonwealth secretariat which arrived in Dhaka two days ago was working on arranging talks aimed at ending the political stand off between leaders of Zia's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the main opposition Awami League under Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

The talks would be held when the Commonwealth secretary general's emissary, Sir Ninian Stephen, arrives here Saturday, sources said.

Editorial Views Subcontinental Arms Race

BK1110132894 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 5 Oct 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Controversy on the Bomb Issue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Everyone knows that the controversy over the nuclear issue has been continuing in South Asia for a long time. The former Army chief of Pakistan, General Aslam Beg, recently spoke on this topic. Addressing a meeting at Lahore University, he disclosed that Pakistan has had a nuclear bomb since 1987. In fact, there is nothing sensational about this statement. Earlier, the former prime minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, stated that Pakistan has such a bomb. At that time, the Government of Pakistan refuted the claim and clarified that they do not have a bomb, but do have the technology to manufacture it. This is the official position of Pakistan.

Meanwhile, in Washington, the U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, has warned Pakistan and India against indulging in an arms race and emphasized the need for talks between the two countries to prevent the spread of bombs and missiles. Some Western intelligence sources say that Pakistan has about 10 bombs while India has about 50 bombs. India is very advanced in missiles technology, as it has developed its own intercontinental missiles. At present, the Indian Army is being equipped with long-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear bombs. This has contributed to tension between the two countries. Addressing a meeting of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] officials in Washington, the U.S. secretary of state stressed the need to lessen the tension. The United States is also working for reducing this tension. Its role with regard to Korea and Iraq is direct, but it is indirect in the case of the subcontinent.

The United States is exerting pressure on China and North Korea to not supply missiles to Pakistan. Similarly, it is exerting pressure on Moscow to not provide rocket technology and fuel to India. The general public is not supposed to know if these diplomatic efforts are being successful. Western sources say that Israel also has the same type of bombs as Delhi and Islamabad, but no action is being taken against Israel. On the other hand, wide publicity is being given to the measures being taken against North Korea. U.S. assistance to Pakistan has been suspended because of the bomb issue. Iraq was harassed due to its preparations for manufacturing a nuclear bomb. It may be mentioned that after the nuclear test conducted by India, Mr. Bhutto, father of the present prime minister of Pakistan, pledged to make a bomb at any cost. Perhaps the nuclear race began in the subcontinent since that time, but this ominous contest is endless. At present, both Washington and Moscow are realizing this fact. It does not need to be mentioned that it was due to the arms race that Moscow suffered an economic disaster, while Washington became burdened with debt. We hope that the major countries of this subcontinent will learn lessons from the present state of the superpowers.

India

World Bank Role in Infrastructure Projects Viewed

BK1110134694 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 6 Oct 94 p 8

[Editorial: "End of Mollycoddling"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The World Bank offer to extend counter-guarantees to foreign investors for Indian infrastructure projects is a reflection of the growing confidence in the Indian economy. This would mean that unlike in the case of Enron and six other fast-track power projects where the Union Government gave counter-guarantees on terms that often seemed too generous, in future infrastructure projects it would be the World Bank that would be the guarantor. While this will help enhance the flow of private capital to the infrastructure sector, it would also ensure that the techno-economic viability of proposals is duly vetted by World Bank experts. If this is seen as an added cushion against inflated cost figures by investors it is a welcome change, but it would be dangerous if the Finance Ministry abdicates all responsibility of assessing the proposals. The World Bank on its part has little to fear from giving counter-guarantees because the Central Government stands guarantee on all loans from the bank in any case.

However, while counter guarantees were a sop for India at the recent Madrid meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, the underlying note of World Bank President Lewis Preston's message was that with the increase in private capital flow the Bank may cut lending to India. This is hardly a comforting thought. Equally disconcerting was the opposition of developed countries like the US, UK and Germany to IMF Managing Director Michael Camdessus' proposal for a general allocation of 36 billion Special Drawing Rights [SDR] over a period of five years. Instead, the offer made was for 16 billion SDR's most of which would go to Eastern Europe and Russia, leaving little for developing countries like India. That the Madrid meeting ended in a stalemate on this issue with a sharp North-South divide is indicative of the South's resolve to use its voting power to good effect to block the selective use of this instrument of international deficit financing. But whereas belligerence yielded some results, the inescapable message is that as India attracts larger private capital inflows, the flow of soft loans is bound to be reduced to a trickle.

Power Industry Agreement Hailed as 'New Ground'

BK1110135194 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 6 Oct 94 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has struck new ground in the concept of resource sharing through the historic power purchase agreements it has signed with the five electricity boards of the southern region. The agreements are for the supply of power from NTPC's proposed Rs. [rupees] 4,800-crore, 2,000 MW second unit of the Talcher power plant in Orissa to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the union territory of Pondicherry. This is a departure from the Corporation's present practice of allocating power from [illegible] of its generating stations located in one region only to the states falling within that zone. The Power Grid Corporation of India has been asked to install the HVDC [High-Voltage Direct Current] transmission system for transmitting bulk power from the eastern region to the south. The task is challenging and commendable.

For the first time, power generation and transmission will transcend state and zonal boundaries and if this experiment succeeds, a national grid in the true sense of the term may finally become a reality. The NTPC's agreements with the southern electricity boards will also be a litmus test for future contracts between itself and the buyers from other regions. The development is particularly gratifying for the NTPC which has been marketing this for about three years. That it concluded the agreements within six months of the Power Ministry according its approval is testimony to NTPC's commitment to the new scheme.

At least two considerations appear to have weighed with the NTPC in opting for the new formula. One is that the southern region has the largest deficit in terms of power availability. The shortage for the region during the current five year plan is estimated at 12 per cent in energy and 25 per cent in peaking power as against the national average of 10 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively. NTPC's argument—and rightly so—is that the Gadgil formula for allocation of Central resources for states which so far also formed the basis for sharing of NTPC power by states does not work well in the case of electricity.

Under the present formula, 10 per cent of the power is allotted to the state in which the unit is located. The rest is distributed in the region on the basis of population and other criteria. For NTPC, this does not make commercial sense.

Secondly, and by far the more important of the two for commercial reasons, is the fact that the southern electricity boards have no outstandings due to the Corporation. This is in sharp contrast to the track record of some of the boards particularly in the north. The NTPC had to resort to extreme measures such as cutting of power supply and taking over power plants of defaulting boards to overcome the problem and to be eligible for massive financial assistance from international funding agencies. NTPC's argument that it is no longer desirable to set up new projects unrelated to the commitment of the customers makes sound business sense.

The NTPC has now decided to sign power purchase agreements with its buyers before it goes to the Centre for project approvals. Recently it signed up with the boards of the western region for the 1,000 MW Vindhyachal unit II in Madhya Pradesh. This is in line with the Corporation's new commercial policy whereby it becomes mandatory for electricity boards to open letters of credit for purchase of power. It also enables the NTPC to regulate power and cut off supplies to boards which default on or delay payments. The NTPC, acting as a watchdog, will, hopefully, check indiscipline and overdrawals by errant boards.

Equally significant is the agreement signed by the Corporation with the southern boards for the sharing of power from the proposed Kayamkulam thermal station in Kerala. The fate of the project has been hanging in balance for a long time with conflicting signals emanating from various quarters, including the Kerala Government and the NTPC. The agreement should put an end to this unseemly controversy.

Editorial Discusses Country's Bid for UNSC Seat

BK1110132594 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 5 Oct 94 p 13

[Editorial: "India and the Veto Club"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India's advocacy of its case for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council [UNSC] was inescapable because even global politics has been subjected to market forces and salesmanship. When Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherji asked the UN General Assembly to consider a veto status for India, he was in fact underscoring the need to have a fresh look at the UN and its economic and political logic to continue in its present form. A milestone will be reached next year when the United Nations celebrates its 50th anniversary. The occasion would have been quietly bypassed had the Cold War not ended with a victory for the West, not knowing exactly how to give a new shape to its peace dividend. As long as the cold war raged, which is what happened for most of the world body's life, the UN had been reduced to a toothless club of international bureaucrats. Cynical students of global politics described it as the "biggest industry in humbug." The end of Sovietism and China's continued abstention over issues to which the United States is committed has gravitated the UN from its formal location in New York to the fountainhead of American power, Washington. Iraq has been repeated in Haiti in the UN lending itself to legitimise U.S. policy. This could conceivably be extended to other parts of the world. The U.S. usurpation of the UN may not be by design; it is just easy to manage. What Washington probably needs to be convinced about is that all its global judgments need not be good even for itself in the long run. In short, Uncle Sam should ponder whether it would be good for the world to have Pax Consortis instead of Pax Americana.

Washington so far has been lazy in addressing itself to this issue. That is why it thinks that what the UN needs is the perpetuation of the UN system by merely inducting Germany and Japan into the veto club. A disinclination to make the UN more representative can only expand the divide between the rich and developing worlds. The UN was born in a colonial world that had just seen the end of a civil war in the family of the rich. It began with 51 countries, and has now attained a membership of 184. Even if the economic criterion is the only yardstick, India has a strong case. THE ECONOMIST of London forecasts that by 2020 AD, India will be the world's fourth biggest economy, after China, the U.S., and Japan. Brazil and Mexico will be among the top 15 economic powers. The newly acquired economic strength of these countries will become particularly relevant when they also emphasise the point that the whole of Latin America, Africa and much of Asia are unrepresented in the same way as Europe is over-represented in the Security Council. The only reason for not expanding the veto club membership is the compulsion for today's world leaders to recast and restructure their commercial and strategic relationships. But it is wiser to accept changes through negotiation than be forced by circumstances to do so.

Iran

Foreign Ministry on 'Alarming' Gulf Situation

LD1210092794 Tehran IRNA in English 0853 GMT 12 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—A senior Foreign Ministry official said that the situation in the Persian Gulf region is alarming.

Interviewed by "TEHRAN TIMES", printed here Wednesday, Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykholeslam said that only the regional states have "the key to the solution of mutual or multi-national disputes or misunderstandings."

"No foreign power, however strong, should be allowed to meddle in the internal affairs of this vital region," the daily quoted the official as saying.

Sheykholeslam noted that in his view the regional states were "committed to peace, stability and security" in the region and that what they need is to "trust each other and refrain from provoking each other."

Reiterating Iran's repeated call on its neighbors to prevent interference of foreign powers in the region, the official stressed that those powers "do nothing but create tension in order to plunder the peoples' wealth and exert political, economic and military hegemony over the region."

Pointing to the lifting of oil and economic embargo against the Zionist regime, Sheykholeslam said "the Persian Gulf Arab rulers have sacrificed political, economic and religious interests of the region through lifting sanctions on the Zionist entity."

The official warned that the regional people would not remain silent when rights of the Palestinians are trampled upon by the Israelis.

Referring to the territorial claims of the Emirates, Sheykholeslam told the paper, "the provocations are not initiated by the Emirates itself, as they are being provoked by the arrogants who want to keep their interests intact through creating tension in the region."

He reiterated that Iran has shown "self-restraint" towards baseless claims and expressed hope that the

Emirates' officials "will not lay the groundwork in the interest of the big powers and detrimental to their neighbors."

"The security of the Persian Gulf Arab countries will be in jeopardy if they put their land and economy at the disposal of the Zionists," the paper quoted him as saying.

Readiness 'To Defuse' Tension Noted

LD1010194694 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1900 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has declared that it is ready to defuse the tension in the region, the spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry announced.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammadi said that the escalation of tension in the sensitive Persian Gulf region benefits the enemies of Islam and is harmful to the people of the region.

Mr. Mohammadi added that for the sake of the region's stability and security, territorial claims should be stopped.

Velayati Meets New Kuwaiti Envoy

LD1110170394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The new Kuwaiti ambassador in Tehran presented a copy of his credentials during a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati this morning.

The Kuwaiti ambassador conveyed a message to Mr. Velayati from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, about the recent developments in Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations.

He said: Considering the important and fundamental role of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a powerful and large country in the region, we strive for deepening and expanding constructive and stable ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kuwait. We consider the strengthening of mutual ties to be beneficial to the peoples of the two countries.

Mr. Velayati welcomed the expansion of ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and all countries in the Persian Gulf region. He added: We pay special attention to cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

Iraqi Motives, Western Reaction Viewed

NC0810082094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 8 Oct 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq's military movements in the southern part of the country have encountered a practical political reaction from the Western countries and are once again at the center of international news and propaganda. The United States claims that two battalions of the Iraqi Presidential Guard are moving toward the Kuwaiti border and, therefore, it has sent its aircraft carrier to the region. Britain, France, and the UN secretary general have displayed a reaction on the latest military moves by Iraq.

According to political observers, what is unfolding on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border is more a political rather than military maneuver pursued with specific objectives by the two sides. In conjunction with Iraq's military movements, the visit to Baghdad by Rolf Ekeus, the head of the UN committee for sanctions against Iraq, and the UN visit by Tariq 'Aziz, the deputy prime minister of Iraq, show that military moves are one of the political weapons that the Iraqi Government utilizes to end the economic embargo against the country.

As Tariq 'Aziz stated at the UN General Assembly session, the Iraqi Government believes that it has extended the necessary cooperation to the disarmament commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and expects the Western countries and the Security Council to terminate the oil embargo on Iraq as soon as possible.

Thus, it may be said that by embarking on military moves on the Kuwaiti border, Iraq is reminding the Western countries that the Iraqi Government's conduct can become hostile and if the Western countries do not bestow the necessary rewards for Iraq's acquiescence with the Security Council resolutions, Baghdad will not feel any motivation to continue its cooperation.

Then too, the United States as well—by its propaganda on the Iraqi military threat and on a possible further attack on Kuwait—is seeking to reap the maximum political gain by generating this news uproar. However, the UN observers on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border have described the situation as calm in the region.

The U.S. military echelons have also announced that two Iraqi battalions that are being moved on the southern borders do not have the necessary equipment for an attack, but the White House is seeking an opportunity—by once again declaring the small Persian Gulf countries' needs for U.S. support—to reiterate and perpetuate the security and economic dependence of these small countries on itself. Once again it wishes to justify its unlawful presence in the region.

Sanctions Said Behind Movement

LD0810154194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 8 Oct 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although more than anything else Iraq's action to deploy its military units along Kuwait's borders has a political nature, the political and news uproar in the West in this regard are being pursued with a multipurpose aim.

At first glance it seems that the aim pursued by the Iraqi Government in the deployment of its forces is to expand the sovereignty of the central government that has been weakened and limited as a result of the United Nations declaring parts of that country's northern and southern regions as peace zones.

As these movements are taking place simultaneously with the visit to Baghdad of Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN committee for sanctions against Iraq, and also the visit of Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to New York, political analysts say the main aim of Baghdad is the lifting of UN economic sanctions.

The Iraqi Government, which has so far accepted the UN resolutions and has agreed with bitterness to the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction and their long-term monitoring, now thinks that this cooperation has been one-sided and the UN Security Council has not shown any concessions so far with regard to the lifting of Iraq's economic sanctions.

The message that Iraq apparently wants to convey to the West with its recent military movement along its borders with Kuwait seems to be that if the West insists on the continuation of the economic sanctions against Iraq, Baghdad does not have any incentive to continuing to cooperate with the United Nations.

Although Baghdad's efforts to persuade the UN Security Council to adopt the simultaneous policy of carrot and stick in the international arena is not so uncommon, but Western uproar toward it shows that the Western powers are not prepared to play with Iraq. They try with full power to follow their regional and political aims by keeping the Iraqi issue afloat.

The Westerners, by extensively raising again Baghdad's military threat, strive to increase the economic and political dependency of the smaller countries in southern regions of the Persian Gulf on themselves and justify their unlawful military presence in the sensitive and oil-rich region of the Persian Gulf.

The other reason behind the Western approach is that the ending of economic sanctions against Iraq would mean the complete closure of the files of the oil war, while the West wants to keep them open.

This war, which has divided the Arab countries and caused unprecedented hostilities among them, has paved the way for the compromise between the Zionist regime and Arab governments. Therefore, the West feels that as far as a compromise has not been reached, one should not take such an action that would contribute to the unity of the Arab countries. [sentence as heard] Maybe it is for this reason that the West strongly resists any effort by Baghdad to lift economic sanctions and continuously pursues the policy of keeping the Iraqi situation afloat in order to keep the Arab countries divided.

Regional Disputes Noted

LD0910122794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1059 GMT 9 Oct 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Following the recent Iraqi military movements near the Kuwaiti border, the relations between the two Persian Gulf littoral states have been placed at the top of world news. [passage omitted]

After the passage of four years since the Iraqi attack against Kuwait, economic and oil sanctions against that country are still in force. During that time UN observers have concentrated all their efforts on the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Iraq does not control its own income and all its medical and food purchases are carried out after the approval of the United Nations. Also, northern and southern areas of Iraq have been declared safe havens and the presence of the Iraqi Government in those areas are limited to policing and administrative affairs. Therefore no-one believes that Iraq is in a situation to get involved in a military adventure.

Now, the question is what lies behind the recent Iraqi military movements? According to political experts, Iraq wants to display the pains caused by the sanctions, and intends to bring the Iraqi issue to life in order to attract public pressure for the lifting of the sanctions. All diplomatic efforts have failed during the past four years to end sanctions against Iraq or at least reduce their effects.

Meanwhile, the roots of the Iraqi efforts should be seen in the behavior of the Persian Gulf littoral Arab states. Despite all pressure exerted on Iraq, it still refuses to recognize the sovereignty of Kuwait. Also Kuwait and Saudi Arabia themselves, through the statements of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, support the trend of the territorial claims—such as the Yemeni dispute and territorial claims by some other countries. Some experts believe that if territorial claims are accepted by the governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, then it is natural that the Iraqi Government would also use the same grounds to make its own territorial claims on those countries.

Developments Viewed

LD1110164394 Tehran IRNA in English 1351 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA—An English-language daily Tuesday said that although Saddam Husayn and the West especially America are playing their cards with much gusto on the Kuwaiti table, no one believes that a war or even a limited military skirmish is part of the gamble.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL wrote that they are playing for bigger stakes and when the aces are finally pulled out, the losers will not be the Americans or the Iraqi leadership neither the Zionists who together with the Persian Gulf states are acting like cheer leaders, but the regional Muslim people, the poor Iraqi Arabs in particular.

"The Americans who are pouring in troops and armaments for some fun and frolic in the desert at the expense of the Kuwaiti exchequer, thunder with customary arrogance that if Iraq dares to cross the line in the sand they will pound the country—not Saddam and his Ba'thists of course—to a pulp, more terrible than what they did in 1991", the editorial noted.

Observers, however, note that the West in connivance with the Persian Gulf states is trying to make a mountain out of the Iraqi mole hill, in order to distract attention from the recent lifting of PGCC [Persian Gulf Cooperation Council] trade and oil sanctions against the "Israeli brethren", the paper added.

"So when the presumed tension vapourizes, the economies of member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, will be poorer by a few billion dollars." In the meanwhile, brother Zion will be snugly sitting on oil barrels along the southern shores of the Persian Gulf, it wrote.

"What would the 60,000-plus Iraqi soldiers and their 700 tanks do after the exercises?", the article asked.

It concluded by answering that, they will go hunting their favourite game in the southern marshes, the two-legged Shiite-Arab prey , the eternal loser whether Baghdad goes to war with its neighbors or not.

Clinton-Yeltsin Agreement on Arms Sales Viewed

'No Problem' Seen in Getting Arms

LD1110100894 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA—A spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry said that at present the Islamic Republic has no problem in supplying its defense requirements.

Speaking to IRNA on Monday, Mahmud Mohammadi said that major defence requirements of the country were being provided domestically, adding that to meet other needs there were variety of easy alternatives.

On the recent agreement between the United States and Russia which deprives the latter to sign new arms contracts with Iran, he said that the market for arms and military equipment is very competitive. If the Russians intend to deprive themselves of having access to such a market, it is up to themselves, the spokesman stressed.

He said that Iran manufactured whatever it needed in order to defend the country and the revolution during the eight-year imposed war and under the sanctions imposed by the superpowers.

Turning to the visit to Moscow of Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-America Mahmud Va'ezi and if the trip was possibly connected to the arms sale, he said that Tehran has expanded ties with Moscow. Therefore, he added, to explore fresh avenues for further expansion and consolidation of bilateral relations is the topic of continuous talks between the two neighboring countries.

During his visit to Moscow, Va'ezi is to discuss cooperation among the Caspian Sea littoral states, Mohammadi said. Because, he added, efforts made by neighbors to upgrade good neighborly relations are infrastructural and independent from common issues such as trade, even arms trade which is among the most profit-making deals these days.

Va'ezi is currently in Moscow to take part in the meeting of the deputy foreign ministers of the littoral states of the Caspian Sea region. He is also to discuss expansion of Tehran-Moscow ties as well as key regional issues with Russian officials.

Asked if President Imamali Rakhmanov of Tajikistan in his talks in New York with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati had expressed satisfaction with the peace accord signed in Tehran, Mohammadi said that no doubt the peace accord could not have been achieved in Tehran without the Tajik president's consent. In New York too, Rakhmanov lauded efforts Iran made for materialization of peace, stability and national reconciliation in Tajikistan. Rakhmanov termed Iran's role as determining in the establishment of ceasefire in his country.

Whether the present rift between Iraq and Kuwait was as critical as portrayed by Western media, Mohammadi said that Iran invites the two sides to self-restraint and urges them to settle their disputes through peaceful means.

Stressing that the way should not be paved for foreign powers to enter the region, Mohammadi noted that escalation of tension and security crisis in the region would guarantee interests of foreign powers.

As for the issue of Afghanistan and if Iran would continue its efforts for reaching an agreement like the one on Tajikistan, the spokesman said that Iran would not spare any effort in this respect. Given the efforts made in the September meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization] in Islamabad and the talks Velayati and OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabid held in this connection, Iran recommended the belligerent parties to avoid escalation of hostility and instead show self-restraint, he added.

Mohammadi stressed that continued clashes would only halt the talks for the establishment of stability in Afghanistan and for employment of the existing potentials in order to eliminate problems of the Muslim Afghan nation.

On Velayati's talks with OIC secretary general, he said that the Iranian foreign minister held the idea that given the tendency shown by different factions in Afghanistan for the settlement of disputes and achievement of an agreement, separate talks should be held with Hamid Algabid. The proposal was raised at the OIC meeting in Islamabad and was reviewed by Velayati and Algabid on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. The two sides believed that if the factions in Afghanistan had really reached the conclusion that war and bloodshed would bring nothing but instability, they would continue their efforts and provide grounds for the talks to reach a sustainable peace.

The OIC secretary general believed that Tehran should be the venue of the talks, concluded Mohammadi.

Foreign Ministry Action Urged

NC0710111894 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 1 Oct 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Yeltsin's Unexpected Response to Clinton"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Bill Clinton on Thursday announced that he "made progress on the difficult issue of Russian arms sales to Iran and agreed to work closer in the future." President Clinton made this statement after a summit meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Washington.

The words "made progress" and "difficult issue" reflect that the Clinton administration did its homework before making the statement.

The homework included an accelerated disinformation propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic in order to paint a distorted picture of Iran before international public opinion.

The favorite weapons used in the United States to fuel anti-Iran propaganda are: violation of human rights, Iran's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons, and state-sponsored terrorism.

Now, more than at any other time, it has become clear to the world, especially to the people of the Third World, that U.S. intentions are nothing but to make the oil-rich Arab countries in the Persian Gulf afraid of Iran, then plunder the people's wealth through arms sales.

President Clinton raised "the difficult issue" of Russian arms sales before President Yeltsin at a time when his administration's official figures show an upward trend in U.S. arms sales to the Third World.

A congressional research service reported recently that the U.S. "increased its leading share of arms sales to the Third World, starting at the end of the Cold War. The share of America's sales in that period jumped from 56 percent to 73 percent of all weapons sales and sales agreements made by the major powers to the Third World."

The same report said that nearly 80 percent of U.S. arms sales came from two major deals involving advanced weapons. Saudi Arabia bought 72 F-15 fighter jets worth $9.5 billion. Kuwait bought 256 M1-A2 battle tanks from General Dynamics Corporation for $2.2 billion.

The Middle East remains the largest arms market in the Third World. This vital region accounts for 56 percent of all agreements from 1990 to 1993.

Clinton, dubbed one of the least competent foreign policy leaders in the 20th century, put pressure on Yeltsin to break the agreement the former Soviet Union signed with Iran in 1988 for the supply of defensive weapons.

The Russian leader allowed the U.S. to meddle in its internal affairs, promising that Moscow will honor the 1988 agreement with Iran, but it will not enter into fresh agreements with the Islamic Republic.

Why?

Most likely, Russia got something for this concession. Could it be that the U.S. has given Russia a share of the weapons market in the Middle East? Only time will tell. The only thing we can say now is that the remarks made by Yeltsin in Washington about the future course of Russian relations with Iran are not the remarks of a friendly neighbor.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic should make note of the Clinton-Yeltsin exchange regarding Iran and, through correct diplomatic channels, take the necessary action.

Official on Russian Arms, Afghanistan, Tajikistan

LD1010221094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with an IRNA correspondent about the manner of follow up of the Foreign Ministry's efforts toward reaching an agreement in Afghanistan—akin to that reached in Tajikistan—Mr. Mohammadi, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said: Considering the efforts made at the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] session in Islamabad and also the talks held between Mr. Velayati and the ICO secretary general, we recommend that the warring sides refrain from escalating the clashes and hostilities.

He added: During his talks with the ICO secretary general, Mr. Velayati proposed that, considering the willingness of the power-seeking factions in Afghanistan to end the conflict and reach an agreement, separate talks should be held between representatives of those factions and the ICO secretary general. That proposal was discussed at the Islamabad session and reviewed on the sidelines of the session.

About reports by news agencies that, under pressure from America, the Russians had agreed not to sign new arms deals with Iran, and also about the trip to Moscow of Mr. Va'ezi, the deputy foreign minister, Mr. Mohammadi said: Considering the fact that we have extensive and all-round relations with the Russians, reviewing ways of expansion of mutual ties is on the general agenda of our ongoing talks. Therefore, work between neighbors to expand relations, good- neighborly relations, infrastructural and independent endeavor are routine issues such as trade, particularly the arms trade, which is most profitable these days.

If the Russians were to deprive themselves of that lucrative market, it would be their business. In this matter, what concerns us is that we have no difficulty in obtaining defensive equipment at present. Because we manufacture a large proportion of it at home, and for other needs we have easy access to a variety of choices.

The IRNA correspondent asked: Under the Tajik peace agreement in Tehran, UN observers are to travel to Tajikistan soon. At the meeting between the Tajik president and Mr. Velayati in New York, was the Tajik president happy with that?

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said: Undoubtedly, the peace agreement in Tehran would not have been reached without the consent of Mr. Rakhmonov. He regarded Iran's stance and assistance in the establishment of the cease-fire as fundamental and determining.

U.S.-Russian Objectives in Persian Gulf Viewed

NC0810112094 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 3 Oct 94 p 12

[Commentary by Ruzbeh Bu ol-Hari: "Iran in Clinton-Yeltsin Talks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Moscow newspaper IZVESTIYA carried an article on Saturday [1 October] on the surfacing of differences between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the country's munitions industries. The reason for these differences was Yeltsin's promise to U.S. President Bill Clinton. In this regard, some Russian political and press circles have criticized Yeltsin's actions and have deemed them contrary to Moscow's interests.

It appears that the U.S. President's objectives regarding his talks with Yeltsin extended beyond the issue of the sale of weapons to Iran. These objectives can be assessed from two viewpoints: "Combating Iran's presence in Central Asia and the Caucasus" and "eliciting Russia's vote in the Security Council."

In other words, while the U.S. agreement with Russia regarding not selling arms to Iran is a symbolic step—because of this country's capability of manufacturing arms and its purchase of weapons from other sources—it is also aimed at fomenting trouble between Tehran and Moscow.

In this regard, the issue of Moscow's efforts for a renewed presence in the republics of the former Soviet Union including Central Asia and the Caucasus has been capitalized upon by Washington. The United States is seeking to magnify the danger and capability of Iran in order to gain preponderance over Central Asia and the Caucasus and thus prevent the healthy and constructive cooperation between Tehran and Moscow that could ultimately prove useful for the establishment of peace and stability in the region. Also, the United States wants to mar relations between two countries and to benefit from Russia's vote in the UN Security Council.

Washington has so far not been able to attract the concurrence of Germany and Japan in exerting pressure on Iran and is seeking to attain this objective by other means. In other words, since these two countries are not Security Council members, the United States wishes to take steps against Iran by attracting Russia's support. This is while—from the point of view of the White House—Britain and France are to a great extent in coordination with the United States in the Security Council and the PRC is preoccupied with domestic issues and abstains from voting in the Security Council.

Accordingly, Washington is seeking to more firmly tighten the dragnet of the siege around Iran, but will the United States be able to do so? It appears that the international rivalry and differences at present are such that they will hinder Washington from attaining its objectives. Germany and Japan—which consider the U.S. tactics for gaining complete control over the Middle East's oil and pushing its economic competitors behind in the next century to their detriment—will not comply with the White House's policies so easily unless some privileges accrue to them as well.

On the other hand, Russia—which from time to time barters its national pride and interests for assistance worth a few million dollars—should heed this fact, that cooperation with the United States regarding Iran will only deprive it of its much needed foreign exchange and its diplomacy in the region will suffer defeat at U.S. hands. The effects of such a defeat will be evident in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

In this regard, the oil agreement between Azerbaijan and the oil consortium of the West will be the first sign to herald such a defeat if Moscow continues its policy of following the United States. In any case, one must not ignore the clout of the nationalist and communist groups opposed to the government, which have the ability to readjust Moscow's diplomacy. This was why, despite his promise to Clinton, Yeltsin stated that Russia will respect the 1988 agreement signed with Iran.

While in the White House, Yeltsin cannot ignore the views of magnates of the weapons industries that generate employment and income, and at the same time, its appears that the Russians (not all the politicians) have gauged the U.S. objectives for domination over the Middle East and this is not something on which they will remain silent.

Christopher Trip Seen Dependent on Syria, Lebanon

LD0910135794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, with the hope of wedging [as heard] the gap between the stances of Damascus and Tel Aviv, has left for the Middle East to launch a new round of White House's mediation efforts.

On his first stopover in Tel Aviv on Sunday 9 October, the U.S. secretary of state will confer with the Israeli officials. He is also expected to hold talks with the Syrian, Jordanian, and Egyptian officials in those countries. He says he will also visit Kuwait in view of the critical situation between Iraq and Kuwait.

Since last February, when bilateral talks between the Syrians and the Israelis were suspended due to massacre of Palestinians in the al-Khalil Mosque [in Hebron], the United States secretary of state, during various trips to the region has tried to persuade the two sides to continue their talks.

Christopher has also tried to bring about some sort of flexibility in the stances for reaching an agreement. The Zionist regime wants Syria to agree to a comprehensive peace [word indistinct] of phased withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

This is under the conditions when the Syrians, while announcing their adherence to the Middle East peace process, call for total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan heights ahead of concluding any peace agreement with Israel. With regard to these heights, which were occupied by the Israeli Army in June 1967, Tel Aviv by referring to security issues does not want to extend necessary concessions to Damascus.

Therefore, in consideration of the compromise process in the Middle East region and recognition of the Zionist regime by its neighboring Arab states without getting any concessions in return and also conclusion of two peace accords by Israel with Jordan and the PLO, political experts have expressed their opinion. [sentence as heard] They think that the Zionist regime is trying to bring further pressures on Damascus and Beirut.

On this basis Christopher's visit to the region can mostly be symbolized to political bargaining so as to impose a peace on the remaining Arab sides in the Middle East region.

However, the extent of the success of Washington in this regard will mostly depend on the maneuverability of Damascus and Beirut in reducing this pressure and on their persistence with the principled stance.

Pressure on Afghan Refugees Said Increased

NC1010185894 Paris AFP in English 1751 GMT 10 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 10 (AFP)—Iran has stepped up the pressure on thousands of Afghan refugees to leave, despite promises by officials here that the refugees would be spared a winter trek home.

An Afghan diplomat told AFP that police in the north-eastern province of Khorasan had intensified a crack-down on the refugees, "systematically confiscating their identity cards and providing them instead with a temporary permit valid for a few weeks."

Up to 700,000 Afghans live in the province bordering on Afghanistan.

After the permits expired the refugees would either have to leave voluntarily or face expulsion.

"Tens of thousands of refugees holding legal status are threatened by the new measures," the diplomat said.

The allegations were confirmed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] in Tehran. UNHCR officials expressed "concern" about the measures, which went into effect July.

As a result of the pressure, more than 40,000 Afghan refugees have left Iran since last month. About 2,000 departures have been recorded daily—three times more than during the summer.

"Three-quarters of those repatriated were forced to leave against their will," said Seyyed Khan Padeshah Rohani, who oversees refugee affairs at the Afghan Embassy in Tehran.

According to the UNHCR, up to 40,000 refugees are stuck in camps in Herat, western Afghanistan, unable to return home because of security fears and the onset of winter.

Threatened by a new influx of refugees from Iran, the governor of Herat province, Ismael Khan, arrived here Sunday to ask the authorities to ease the pressure on the refugees.

"We know we will have a serious problem during the winter. There is a shortage of food, shelter, medicine and fuel for the refugees," Ismael Khan told reporters Monday.

The Afghan official, who controls all of western Afghanistan, said some 5,000 refugee families had been forced out of Iran "against their will" and arrived in Herat in the past two months.

"Iran should allow the refugees to be repatriated gradually. Otherwise we will not be able to settle them for a long period," Ismael Khan warned.

He said Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati-Jahromi had "agreed to a moratorium" on forced repatriation and had held local officials responsible for the crackdown, which "did not reflect government policy."

However, Afghan diplomats and the UNHCR were sceptical about Besharati's comments, saying Tehran had made similar promises before.

Last month Besharati said Iran would allow more than 500,000 Afghan refugees facing expulsion to stay until next spring.

Around 1.8 million Afghans who fled the Soviet invasion of their country and ensuing civil war still live in Iran, according to official figures. About 550,000 of them have temporary permits which have expired and face expulsion.

More than 800,000 Afghan refugees have left Iran since the communist regime fell in Kabul in April 1992.

Fall of Saudi King Fahd Seen 'Imminent'

NC0710112894 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Sep 94 p 2

[Editorial: "King Fahd in the Footsteps of the Shah"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A thorough analysis by regional and international analysts on the current unrest in Saudi Arabia indicates that the fall of the Saudi King Fahd is imminent.

The United States and other Western countries have been plundering the land which was once called Hejaz. Despite the fact that Saudi Arabia is one of the richest countries in the world and over 6 million foreigners are working there, some one million people in the kingdom are unemployed.

After the establishment of the Islamic Republic in 1979, the U.S.-led West was forced to wind up its bounty business in Iran and turned its face to the other side of the Persian Gulf with a better and more comprehensive plan to compensate for what they had lost in Iran.

As a first phase of its plan, through a disinformation campaign, the West presented the Islamic Republic as a potential danger to the rulers of the region, particularly to the Saudi royal family, who in the recent past have claimed to be the leader of the Islamic world. They have flushed money, mostly in poor Islamic countries, to woo the innocent and ignorant.

The Saudis, however, failed in their objective, as Muslims in general have found true Islam in Iran, not in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi royal family has been looking after the interests of the West rather than Muslims, or even Saudi Arabians.

The war Iraq imposed on Iran, and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait were planned by the West in order to build an iron wall around the oil-rich countries of the southern side of the Persian Gulf, particularly Saudi Arabia.

The more the West plundered the public money in Saudi Arabia, the faster became the pace of opposition to the Saudi rulers. The opponents of the Saudi regime are aware of the deals made with fat commissions sent to secret accounts. Saudi Arabia is currently Britain's largest defense customer, accounting for nearly $30 billion in purchases.

More recently, the Saudi rulers signed an agreement with McDonnel-Douglas corporation of the United States for $9.5 billion for the purchase of 72 F-15 fighter jets.

In a recent statement, one opposition leader in the United Kingdom disclosed that 10,000 U.S. soldiers and 30,000 civilians with military duties are based in Saudi Arabia. Just as they had done in Iran, they never bother to respect the religious sanctity and Islamic customs of that country. During the Shah's regime 50,000 American soldiers, in the name of advisers, were based in Iran and 100,000 were in other fields with handsome monetary compensation.

Saudi people want nothing but a democratic form of government in which neither Americans nor Britons, but common people have their say.

In the footsteps of the Shah, the Saudi King is not ready to surrender power, a power which his ancestors seized by force. The end is clear. History repeats itself. Final victory belongs to the people.

U.S. Motives, Reforms in Saudi Arabia Examined

NC0910095594 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Oct 94 p 16

[Political commentary: "The United States and Saudi Arabia—Support for Political Reforms or Preserving the Structure of Domination?!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past few days, the issue of "political reforms" in Saudi Arabia has created waves in U.S. political relations with the traditional guardian of its interests in the region (Saudi Arabia).

These waves came in the wake of the statement issued by the Committee for the Defense of Legal and Legitimate Rights based on the arrests of more than a thousand supporters of political reforms by the Riyadh police. This committee, which had announced its existence in London in 1993, identified itself as the proponent of political reforms in Saudi Arabia.

The claims of the aforementioned dissident committee were publicized along with numerous commentaries in the political circles and news agencies of the West. However, it is imperative to pay attention to the following facts:

1. Even though the members of this group enjoy U.S. support and also reciprocate this deference toward the superpower, there is some inherent doubt and ambiguity in Washington's objectives in its defense of political reforms in Saudi Arabia.

This is because on the basis of historical experiences, especially in the history of colonialism, that is, of the center and the colonies, whenever the power framework has been limited in the colonies, the possibility of the continuation of the center's domination is greater. In the course of the history of colonialism in the world, which began in the 15th and 16th centuries and traversed various stages such as commercial colonialism, imperialism and so on, it has now emerged and continues in the form of the new world order. Thus, the most valuable resources of the colonies have been pillaged and plundered by the despotic rulers who were the protectors of the interests of the hegemonistic powers.

The hereditary monarchy in Saudi Arabia has constantly served the West, and the United States in particular, and continues to do so. There is no doubt that if on the basis of political reforms professed by the West the pyramid of power became accessible to the people, the Riyadh echelons would be unable to perform these services. The innumerable instances of opposition throughout history toward the interests of the colonialists in the colonized and semi-colonized countries came from the people. Regardless of whether it was in the form of violence or other democratic channels (through representatives, etc.) the absolute authority of the despotic rulers was restricted this way.

2. Some other political circles have interpreted the emergence of political opposition and revolt in the past few days in Saudi Arabia as a kind of plot on the part of the United States to exert pressure to gain greater control over the regional and international postures of Riyadh. These circles advocate exerting pressure on Riyadh to forge diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv and to relinquish its support for Syria and Lebanon as the indices of their hypothesis.

As regards this hypothesis, one can accept the principle of the "lever of pressure" but on the choice of an index for it one must be a bit cautious, as Riyadh's tacit silence on a compromise between Arabs and Israel stems more than anything else from a traditional and obsequious policy and it moves more slowly than other Arab countries toward the Zionist regime. The approval of the request to lift the sanctions on the Zionist regime at the recent Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] session can be considered one such ingratiating measure on the part of Riyadh.

Thus, the actual index is that the United States, on the basis of its policy of creating artificial dangers, it is seeking—with propaganda on the danger of Islamism in Saudi Arabia on the eve of Fahd's demise—to manipulate the future political structure of the country so that its current level of domination is maintained.

U.S. Said Seeking To Use Mecca Hotel for Spying

NC1110093694 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Sep 94 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "The CIA—Infiltration in the 'City of Peace'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Saudi officials have given permission for the United States to construct a 36-story hotel in the vicinity of the Holy Mosque in Mecca.

The Saudi regime's officials have not provided any reason for giving that permission, but the construction of a hotel in Saudi Arabia is taking place during a time when the presence of Americans in the political, cultural, economic, and intelligence fields in the country is increasing daily. According to Saudi laws, the entry of non-Muslims into Holy Mecca is prohibited.

In any case, the Saudis have not clarified whether the construction of the hotel in the vicinity of the Holy Mosque is a violation of these regulations or whether they consider the entry of the Americans into the holy and sacred sites an exception.

The construction of an American hotel near the Holy Mosque has caused a furious reaction from the Muslims of that country. An Islamic group has issued a statement that has been distributed in Mecca declaring that it will not tolerate the presence of Americans in Holy Mecca for any reason and that if the construction begins, U.S. interests in Saudi Arabia will be endangered.

Most political groups active in Saudi Arabia believe that the Americans will use the hotel as a center for espionage. For this reason, some of the informed sources in the region have stated that the Americans intend to deploy their communications and espionage systems next to the House of God [the Ka'bah].

The Americans—who are actively involved in many areas in Saudi Arabia, such as oil, weaponry, and the economy—are now seeking to extend their sphere of influence to religious matters in the country. Thus, they wish to begin their anticultural activities from the most sacred site in Saudi Arabia, that is, Holy Mecca.

This repulsive act by the Americans, which is to be implemented with the direct mandate from the servile Saudi regime, should elicit a reaction from the Islamic Republic of Iran and other Muslims of the world. This is because this certainly constitutes a new chapter in the cultural onslaught of the West against Islam.

GCC Decision on Israel Boycott Viewed

NC0810205694 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Oct 94 p 16

[Editorial: "Whither the Arabs?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said yesterday: Six member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] announced in New York that they will partially lift the embargo against the Zionist regime.

This is the first step by the Persian Gulf countries leading to the infiltration by the occupier Jerusalem regime of part of the Muslim market. The visits by Israeli officials to some of the Persian Gulf countries in the past weeks indicate that what was announced in New York was merely an official declaration of the preliminaries that had been going on earlier, most of which have now been completed.

These moves are taking place at a time when the GCC insists on its hollow and baseless claims to the three Iranian islands. The main question that arises here is: What occurred that made the Arabs think that the 40-year-old enmity toward the Zionist regime had ended?

What important historical phenomenon is on the verge of taking shape in the lands that have been usurped by the force of bombs, tanks, and cannons causing millions of innocent Palestinians to be homeless when a ridiculous claim is being propounded in the Persian Gulf?!

These are important questions that are arising in the minds of the people in this region.

At present, the United States and Britain are directing a game on human rights in Saudi Arabia to pressure government officials to pay ransom to the West.

The fact that the Saudi foreign minister should issue a statement announcing the lifting of the boycott by the GCC countries against despotic Israel in the aftermath of Christopher's visit indicates that the U.S. threats against Saudi Arabia on the pretext of human rights have proved effective and the results are becoming evident one after another!

Similarly, the Americans are using the Iraqi regime as an instrument for exerting pressure on Kuwait and most of the Persian Gulf countries and are capitalizing on this situation by imposing their demands on the regional countries and by tightening or relaxing the vise on the Baghdad regime.

All these efforts are geared toward the following:

1. The Zionist regime should neutralize all pressure from outside its borders and embark on the suppression of the Palestinians internally.

2. Israel should gain access to Muslim markets and take over the economies of the Islamic countries.

3. The concept of the cancerous tumor of the Zionist regime as a common enemy of all the Arabs and Muslims should be completely effaced.

4. The atrophied and decadent Arab regimes should be directed toward an enemy named Islamic fundamentalism.

5. As a result of the above, the Arabs, Israel, and the United States should be in one common rank against the Islamic revolution.

The fact is that the trend that the Americans have designated for peace in the Middle East is nothing more than an extreme case of conceit. Today is the best opportunity for the Arabs to ponder where they are headed.

If they do not go where their people are pointing, the Americans and Israelis will steer them toward the worst predicament, which they have never experienced even in their previous defeats.

Nateq-Nuri Refuses To Deny Presidential Candidacy

NC0910141094 Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Oct 94 p 2

[From the News Desk]

[Text] Following a report in the KEYHAN HAVA'I [overseas edition] weekly denying that Speaker of the Islamic Majles 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri will be a candidate in the next presidential elections, the office of the Majles speaker sent a letter to that publication rejecting the report. [as published]

In a section of the above-mentioned letter, it was stated: "On the report that Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri will or will not be a nominee for the post of president in the next round of the presidential elections, no opinions will be aired at present affirming or denying the same."

The letter continues: "It is obvious that whenever the expediency of the hallowed system of the Islamic Republic of Iran demands, his excellency will accept responsibility delegated to him, as in the past."

Iraqi Kurdish Leader Arrives in Tehran

LD0910163294 Tehran IRNA in English 1603 GMT 9 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA—Leader of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Masoud Barzani arrived here Sunday to meet with Iranian officials.

Upon his arrival, the KDP leader said he was here for talks on expansion of mutual relations and issues related to Iraq's territorial integrity.

Barzani said he was carrying a message of gratitude from the Iraqi Kurdish people for the Islamic Republic of Iran for its generous assistance to them.

Pakistan

Saddam's Deployment of Forces Called 'Irrational'

BK1110065694 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 11 Oct 94 p 7

[Editorial: "Rumblings of Another War"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's latest deployment of forces has again turned the region into a potential war-zone. As some Iraqi divisions reportedly head for the Iraq-Kuwait border, the U.S. has shipped some 4,000 troops to Kuwait, raising the spectre of another Gulf war. Saddam's move to amass troops near the border with Kuwait seems irrational, especially since it coincides with discussions at the United Nations General Assembly session regarding sanctions against Iraq. There was even a chance that the sanctions might be softened at the instance of some Security Council members.

Sanctions were placed against Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Since then Iraq has complied with several UN resolutions, including the withdrawal of its troops from the emirate, but this has not satisfied the world community. The UN, or more specifically the U.S., insists that Iraq recognise the border with Kuwait, pay it war indemnities, and destroy all weapons of mass destruction. The sanctions undoubtedly have crippled the Iraqi economy since its major export, oil, cannot be sold to other countries. But the UN's conditional offer to Iraq to sell oil in return for food and medical supplies was not accepted by Baghdad. Strangely enough this development takes place at a time when Russia, France and China had just begun to push for the partial lifting of sanctions in the teeth of tough opposition from Britain and the U.S.

Explanations can be many of Saddam's actions, even though so far within Iraqi borders. A plausible one has to do with internal problems. The Iraqi Ba'ath Socialist Party is facing difficulties at home as the sanctions have reduced the living standard of Iraqis, used to comforts of life. Even during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, Iraqi oil pipelines kept functioning and money continued to come in. While there were some miseries that war inevitably begets, these were miniscule compared to the impact the four-year embargo has had on Iraq since the Gulf war. But it is also quite possible that what might be a routine rotation of forces in Iraq is seen as "brinkmanship." The U.S. specially has over-reacted to the "threat," while the Arab states are still playing it in low key.

Moreover the Gulf war also fuelled uprisings, predominantly of the Shi'as in the south and Kurds in the north. Though suppressed these still simmer and the troops movement could be in this context as a show of force to warn them. Saddam may even be trying to convince his own people that he remains the all-powerful, who can do as he wishes. Whatever the reason, it has already caused alarm. Not known for his strategic genius, Saddam Husayn's precipitate action runs the risk of forcing a showdown no one wants and that the Middle Eastern region can ill-afford.

'Double-Faced' U.S. Approach to Nonproliferation Viewed

BK0810123094 Karachi DAWN in English 8 Oct 94 p 9

[Editorial: "The Missile Conundrum"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States' move to lift the sanctions it had imposed on China in August 1993 on the missile issue does not clear up all the misgivings about America's double-faced approach to non-proliferation of lethal weapons systems. Washington had adopted punitive measures against Beijing and Islamabad on the pretext that the two had violated the Missile Technology control Regime (MTCR), which prohibits the sale of some specified technology and missile components listed by the 25 participating members. Although both the governments at the receiving end had denied the charges levelled against them, the U.S. stuck to its self-righteous position. While lifting the embargo against China America has not conceded the validity of the Chinese denial in respect of missile supply to Pakistan. On the contrary, it has extracted a pledge from China not to export missiles with a range of 300 km and capable of carrying a payload of 500 kg.

Pakistan remains in the dock. At the most Washington has offered to continue the talks with Islamabad. It is evident that America has chosen to be soft towards Beijing not on grounds of any principle it claims to uphold but for expedient political and economic reasons. It is no coincidence that China happens to be a big power and offers a huge market for American goods. The same consideration had prompted the U.S. to retain the most-favoured-nation treatment clause in its trade arrangement with China earlier this year. According to the dictates of logic, the Americans should have let Pakistan off the hook too when China, which was accused of supplying the 'offensive' missiles, has not been found guilty. On the contrary, the MTCR team which was visiting the subcontinent last month has not cleared Pakistan's missile plans.

Although in principle, one cannot question the need for arms cut agreements on grounds of morality and genuine peace and security among nations, the way the MTCR of 1987 is being implemented raises many doubts in people's minds. Is the U.S. really concerned about the danger of proliferation of weapons, especially now that the end of the cold war has removed the compulsion for nations to arm themselves? If it were so, it should have taken the first step to dismantle its own vast arsenals. It could also have curbed the flow of weapons from its own arms factories to the third World. The scale on which the U.S. has been selling arms abroad is really disturbing. According to the UNDP [UN Development Program], since 1988 the U.S. has been the world's biggest arms exporter and in 1992 its arms exports were valued at $8.4 billion and accounted for 45 per cent of the world's total arms sales. It is intriguing that in this case all concern about proliferation has been thrown to the winds.

How the U.S. will react to Pakistan's strategic compulsions remains to be seen. The Clinton Administration will, however, do well to consider the issue in the South Asian regional context. The MTCR team which was in Islamabad recently had also taken note of India's missile development programme, especially the Agni and Prithvi missiles. It is time Islamabad's strategic concerns are addressed and steps taken to persuade the two subcontinental neighbours to reach arms cut agreements on the basis of reciprocity and mutuality. Putting pressure on one state unilaterally, while leaving the other free to pursue its bloated military ambitions and develop its nuclear and resistance while enhancing the sense of insecurity of the smaller party. Only a regional approach taking into account security implications of unresolved conflicts and disputes affecting inter-state relations and making clear distinction between offensive military build-up and genuine requirements of self-protection against possible aggression can help devise feasible arms cut regime for South Asia.

Response to Strike Call Reviewed

BK1110141094 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The call of the leader of the opposition for the observance of wheel-jam strike across the country met with a negative response. The wheels could not be jammed, despite threats of violence and intimidation aired earlier by the leadership of the opposition.

The day in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi began with normal business. Shutters of some shops in big markets were seen down in the early hours of today, possibly under the fear of violence, but when the vehicular traffic resumed its operation between the two cities, the confidence of shopkeepers too was restored and the business community returned to its points of business.

In Islamabad, some people clogged the locks of most of the shops in the Jinnah Supermarket by putting some fluid adhesive material to force the shopkeepers to close their business. The shopkeepers condemned this act. They also condemned the politics of violence and agitation which is affecting the business adversely. Petrol pumps, commercial banks, and other business houses operated smoothly. Federal capital's Mangal bazaar [Tuesday market] operated without any interruptions. Buses, wagons, taxis, tongas, and rickshaws normally operated on their specific routes. In certain areas some miscreants pelted stones at the buses, but they were overwhelmed by the law-enforcing agencies. The activities, however, could not disturb the normal life.

And in Lahore, the wheel-jam strike could not muster support from the general public. It was the same story in Gujranwala and other cities of the Punjab. Although many people were scared due to the threats of physical violence and damage to property and vehicle, traffic on the roads plied normally. Wagons, tongas, rickshas, buses and scooters, and motorcycles and a variety of other transports were seen on the streets and tracks since morning. The Pakistan Railways operated all their trains on the main and branch lines and the flights of PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] and other air companies operated on schedule. In Gujranwala, the business remained normal. Wheels were not jammed as the city witnessed routine hustle and bustle.

In Karachi and other parts of Sindh Province, the opposition's call for wheel jam did not attract full support from the people as life continued normally. Public transports were available on their routes, while shops, commercial centers, business houses, and financial institutions functioned normally. The attendance, which was thin earlier in the day, picked up gradually and business transactions were carried out without any disturbance.

Life in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] remained normal and the people rejected opposition's negative and agitational politics. In Peshawar, despite heavy clouds and rains last night, life began as usual in the morning. All schools, colleges, business and commercial centers, government and semigovernment offices opened and there were all types of transport running on the roads. PTV correspondents in Peshawar, Abbottabad, Dera Ismail Khan, and other districts and divisional headquarters reported that the people ignored the opposition's call and continued their usual business.

According to PTV's Quetta correspondent, the strike call by the opposition was met with a mixed reaction in Balochistan Province. The provincial capital of Quetta and other cities witnessed partial strike, while restaurants, shops of [words indistinct] groceries, medicines, and other business remained opened. In Cantonment area of Quetta, no strike was observed. In the province of Balochistan, road and railway traffic remained normal.

Nawaz Sharif's Political Package Criticized

BK1110114894 Lahore JANG in Urdu 11 Oct 94 p 14

[Editorial: "Government's Reaction to the Opposition Package"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During their meeting the other day, President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto discussed, among other things, the opposition leader's constitutional and political package, which he has described as a means for resolving the country's political crisis. Both the leaders rejected the package, saying that it is designed to unseat an elected democratic government and to create chaos and confusion in the country.

There is such a wide gap between the thinking of the government and the opposition that all prospects of an understanding and conciliation between the two seem to be gradually ebbing away. The president and the prime minister have been doing their level best to settle issues and resolve the differences with the opposition through negotiations. The opposition leader, however, is not only not prepared to enter into negotiations, he is also declaring that his current agitation is aimed at ousting the Benazir government. When there is such a vast gap between the thinking of the government and that of the opposition, there is no question of any understanding

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